



# Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2009

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE • KINSHIP CARE, ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE • CHILD CARE • PUBLIC SAFETY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE • SUBSTANCE ABUSE • MENTAL HEALTH • EDUCATION • HEALTH • HUMAN SERVICES

## Prepared by the Virginia Commission on Youth

Revised May 29, 2009

The Virginia Commission on Youth is a standing, bipartisan legislative commission of the General Assembly which, by mandate, provides a legislative forum in which complex issues may be explored and resolved. The Commission was enacted in 1989 and began operations in 1991. According to the *Code of Virginia*, the role and function of the Commission is "to study and provide recommendations addressing the needs of and services to the Commonwealth's youth and families." The Commission monitors the development of laws and policies in federal, state and local governments which impact youth and their families and contribute to the General Assembly's ability to make sound policy decisions based on well-studied and reasoned recommendations.

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## GENERAL

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Governor's Office	<p>The Council on Virginia's Future (Council) is established in §2.2-2682 as an advisory council in the executive branch. The purpose of the 18-member Council is to advise the Governor and General Assembly on the implementation of the Roadmap for Virginia's Future process as part of the larger state budgeting process. The Council was enacted in 2003 to develop a vision and long-term goals for Virginia's future. It was also tasked with developing a performance leadership and accountability system for state government that aligns with and supports achievement of the vision.</p> <p>Its mandated purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a long-term focus on high-priority issues;</li> <li>• create an environment for improved policy and budget decision-making;</li> <li>• increase government accountability and transparency;</li> <li>• improve government performance; and</li> <li>• engage citizens in dialogue about Virginia's future.</li> </ul> <p>The Council regularly reviews progress on implementation of the Roadmap process and updates the Roadmap as needed. To facilitate assessment, it has developed Virginia Performs, a performance leadership and accountability system whose most public face is the website, Virginia Performs. This "scorecard" for Virginia aligns agency-level outcomes with broader statewide goals for the Economy, Education, Health &amp; Family, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation, Government &amp; Citizens.</p> <p>There are eight legislative members and ten non-legislative members. General Assembly membership includes the Senate President Pro Tempore, the House Speaker, the Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, and chairs of the money committees. Other Council members include Cabinet staff and leaders from the private sector. The Governor serves as chair.</p> <p>The Council is assisted by the Department of Planning and Budget, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Auditor of Public Accounts, and the money committees.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Senator Yvonne Miller serves on the Council as a Senate Finance Committee member.</p>	<p>The Council met in November 2008 to review trends and findings in the 2008 Virginia Performs report. The focus of that meeting was educational attainment in the U.S. and in the Commonwealth. Members requested a special 2009 meeting to develop a framework for creating long-term solutions for successes in higher education outcomes. That meeting was held May 21 in Richmond.</p> <p>The Virginia Performs website, launched in January 2007, integrates access to all measures and allows users to quickly view the complete listing for each category.</p> <p>Council members and staff speak regularly about Virginia Performs at regional, state and national events, including the National Governors Association and the Chiefs of Staff.</p> <p>The Code requires the Council to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Council no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website. The Council's 2008 report is available on-line at <a href="http://future.virginia.gov/docs/VirginiaReport/VirginiaReport2008_web.pdf">http://future.virginia.gov/docs/VirginiaReport/VirginiaReport2008_web.pdf</a>.</p> <p>In addition, two "Issue Insights" which were published in August and September 2008 relate to school dropout prevention are posted on the Council's website: "The High Cost of Low Educational Attainment" and "Why Students Drop Out."</p>

## COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>The <b>State Executive Council's (SEC)</b> purpose is to assure collaborative programmatic policy development, fiscal policy development and administrative oversight for the efficient and effective provision of child centered, family focused and community based services to eligible emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. Further, the SEC assures the Governor, and Cabinet Secretaries are well-informed in matters related to these areas.</p> <p>Legislative members are Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton and Senator John A. Edwards.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>SEC meetings are scheduled by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Pursuant to § 2.1-746 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, the SEC is required to meet at least quarterly.</p> <p>Its first 2009 meeting on March 25 focused on 2009 Session bills and budgetary items directly impacting CSA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 1179 expands the SEC membership by four.</li> <li>• SB 1180 requires the SEC to report and analyze expenditures associated with children with emotional and behavioral problems who do not receive CSA funding and requires the Council to identify additional funding streams to purchase services.</li> <li>• SB 1181 requires the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) to report to the SEC all expenditures associated with serving children who receive pool-funded services.</li> <li>• Budget amendments require OCS to develop a plan for conducting training sessions, clarify that local match rates for Medicaid-funded services provided through the CSA program are not reduced during the 2008-10 biennium, and require local CPMTs and CSBs work collaboratively to develop local plans for Intensive Care Coordination and developing guidelines for reasonable rates for ICC services and to provide related training.</li> </ul> <p>DSS has been asked by Secretary Tavenner to help DMHRSAS clear out the backlog of licensure applications.</p> <p>A link to the Children's Services System Transformation initiative is available at <a href="http://www.vafamilyconnections.com">www.vafamilyconnections.com</a>. In April, CSA announced an organization realignment which creates two divisions: the Operations and Policy Division and the Transformation, Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement Division.</p> <p>The SEC is required to by Code to biennially publish and disseminate to the General Assembly and CPMTs a biennial progress report on comprehensive services for children, youth and families and a plan for such services for the succeeding biennium. This report is due no later than December 20 in odd-numbered years, thus a report is forthcoming in December 2009.</p> <p>Other SEC meetings are scheduled for July 9, September 24, and December 17.</p>

**COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>The <b>State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)</b> is established to better serve the needs of troubled and at-risk youths and their families by advising the State Executive Council (SEC), managing cooperative efforts at the State level and providing support to community efforts. The team shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Council.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The SLAT, which historically met the first Thursday of each month, will begin meeting every other month as of March 2009. At its meetings, the SLAT receives presentations on varied state and local activities for children's services.</p> <p>Mike Mastropaola has been elected SLAT chair to succeed Charlotte McNulty, who has been hired as the OCS Executive Director.</p> <p>On January 8, members reviewed the recommended operating budget amendments for the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) for FY 2009-10 and received workgroup reports and updates. The Match Rate Workgroup, which reconvened in April 2009, is refining recommendations to be presented to the SEC in summer 2009. The Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) Workgroup, which is forming an ICC network/technical assistance support group to assist localities with implementation of ICC, will meet monthly.</p> <p>Members reviewed the December CORE presentation and the underlying philosophy of the transformation process. CORE has a 2009 goal of spreading the transformation to all child-serving agencies.</p> <p>At its March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, members received a report on the 2009 legislative session and updates on the Transformation Initiative and CORE, ICC and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). Forums are being held throughout Virginia to provide orientation to localities and to receive input on the process. Additional training is planned in the areas of family engagement and resource family development. The ICC toolkit has been posted to the DMHMRSASA and CSA websites. Members also received a detailed briefing on the 2008 CSA Critical Service Gaps Report required by the Code. Eighty percent of CPMTs participated in the assessment. Eighty one percent of localities reporting indicated they had taken steps to expand services, most commonly in the areas of school-based mental health day treatment, parent and family mentoring, parent/family skills training, wraparound services, and intensive in-home services.</p> <p>On May 7, members heard updates on the Transformation Initiative, 2009 legislative initiatives and resulting CSA projects, and on DOE/CSA trainings held across the state. These focus on understanding special education processes.</p> <p>Other 2009 meeting dates are July 2, September 3, and November 5.</p>

## COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	<p>Item 283-C-3 of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to establish a Workgroup to address a <b>Financial Incentive System and Local CSA Match Rates</b>.</p> <p>Specifically, the budget language mandates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The financial incentive system shall use the methodology in place on July 1, 2007, for calculating the base rate for each locality.</li> <li>b) Beginning July 1, 2008, the local match rate for community based services for each locality shall be reduced by 50 percent.</li> <li>c) Localities shall review their caseloads for those individuals who can be served appropriately by community-based services and transition those cases to the community for services. Beginning January 1, 2009, the local match rate for residential services for each locality shall be increased by 15 percent above the fiscal year 2007 base rate after a locality has incurred a total of \$100,000 in residential care expenditures for the period of January 1, 2009, through June 30, 2009. Beginning July 1, 2009, the local match rate for residential services for each locality shall be 25 percent above the fiscal year 2007 base rate after a locality has incurred a total of \$200,000 in residential care expenditures. <i>The local match rate for all Medicaid services in both years shall be based on the match rate in place on September 1, 2008. (2009 General Assembly budget language)</i></li> </ul> <p>Item 283-C-4 adds language to clarify that local match rates for Medicaid-funded services provided through the CSA program are not reduced during the 2008-10 biennium. Any increases in local Medicaid match rates would violate local cost sharing requirements included within the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, thus jeopardizing \$962 million in federal Medicaid revenue to the Commonwealth.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The mandated November 2008 update has been published as <i>Report Document 51, A Status on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Services Act Match Rate Incentive for Residential Care</i>. The 2009 update is due to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by November 1, 2009.</p> <p>Known as the Match Rate Workgroup, it reconvened in April 2009 to refine recommendations to the SEC in summer 2009. The Workgroup includes representatives from the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia League of Social Services Executives, the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards, the Virginia Coalition of Private Providers, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court.</p>

**COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office of Comprehensive Services/Mental Health Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p>The <b>Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)</b> initiative was developed following enactment by the 2008 General Assembly of SB 487 (Hanger)/HB 503 (Hamilton), requiring the State Executive Council to oversee the development and implementation of mandatory uniform guidelines for intensive care coordination for children who are at risk of entering, or placed in, residential care through the CSA program.</p> <p>The 2009 General Assembly added language in the 2009 Appropriation Act (Special Session) to require that the State Executive Council, local CPMTs and CSBs to work collaboratively in their service areas to develop a local plan for ICC services. 283-C-e further stipulates that local CPMTs and CSBs shall also work together to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective provider of ICC services for children in their community who are placed in, or at risk of being placed in, residential care. The SEC and OCS shall establish guidelines for reasonable rates for ICC services and provide training and technical assistance to CPMTs and fiscal agents regarding these services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>ICC has been implemented in three phases. The first two (Development of Guidelines and the Implementation Workgroup) have been completed. As of February 2009, Phase 3 – Technical Assistance and Training has begun. An Intensive Care Coordinators (ICC) Network has been formed to assist localities with implementation of ICC and that workgroup has begun meeting. This group will initially be meeting monthly. Tracking of the implementation status at each CSB and providing technical assistance is on-going.</p> <p>Currently 10 CSBs are providing ICC services and an additional six CSBs are in the discussion phase.</p> <p>After the ICC Guidelines were developed and adopted, an Implementation Workgroup was formed to address the issues of role confusion and functions, rates for ICC and provision for technical assistance.</p> <p>A one page document has been developed to address the role and function of the intensive care coordinator in an effort to clear up any confusion that may exist with other positions (i.e. case managers, foster care workers, etc.). The workgroup did not recommend a state rate for ICC services. A chart of rates established by localities that are already providing ICC services has been developed and is provided as part of a toolkit to help address technical assistance needs. The toolkit, along with frequently asked questions on ICC, has been posted on both the DMHMRSAS and OCS websites.</p> <p>The OCS presented on its implementation strategy for ICC at the March 25<sup>th</sup> SEC meeting. The 2009 General Assembly provided further clarification to the 2008 legislative mandate by adding that local CPMTs and CSBs shall work collaboratively to develop a plan for ICC that best meets the needs of the children and families. If there is more than one CPMT in the CSB's service area, the CPMTs and the CSB may work together as a region to develop a plan for ICC. Local CPMTs and CSBs shall also work together to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective provider of ICC for children in accordance with guidelines developed by the SEC. The SEC and OCS shall develop guidelines for ICC rates.</p> <p>On February 23, DMHMRRSAS sponsored a forum on ICC to provide information and answer questions. Subsequent networking meetings for people who are providing or want to provide ICC are planned, including one in southwest Virginia in mid-May.</p>

**COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	<p><b>Enhancing Communication with the Juvenile Justice System</b> Item 283-C-3a of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act directs the Secretary's Workgroup to examine future actions to improve communication and coordination among CSA and the juvenile justice system (court service units, J&amp;DR judges, and DJJ) on the plans of care for "Children in Need of Services" as defined under the interagency guidelines on foster care services and for children at risk for residential placement through a court order by a J&amp;DR judge.</p> <p>In fulfilling its charge, Workgroup is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clarify eligibility criteria in the interagency foster care guidelines;</li> <li>• develop document providing best practices for the CSA systems to use with judges, attorneys, guardians ad litem, parents; and</li> <li>• draft guidance on resolving issues when disparity between what judge orders and what funds or services are available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Workgroup's charge, as originally described, would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify implementation of the new Interagency Foster Care Guidelines on Children in Need of Services (CHINS) related to juvenile justice youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clarify which youth from the juvenile justice system are eligible (e.g. delinquents/felons);</li> <li>○ Identify training issues; and</li> <li>○ Identify strategies for training CSA systems, court services units, attorneys and guardians ad litem.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify best practices and effective strategies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhancing communication between judges and the CSA system;</li> <li>○ Engaging judges in CSA, while respecting their respective roles;</li> <li>○ Clarifying roles of CSA system and judges, particularly the role of judges in ordering services and strategies when youth are not eligible for funding or when funds are not available; and</li> <li>○ Educating the court system on eligibility, CSA processes, and what the child serving agencies can fund to clarify expectations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Based on a DJJ recommendation approved by SLAT members at the August 7, 2008 SLAT meeting, there is not a separate CSA workgroup; instead the newly-formed CORE workgroup incorporates this charge and regularly reports its progress to SLAT.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p><b>Technical Assistance to Localities</b> Item 283-B-6 of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act provides \$50,000 for each year for a combination of regional and statewide meetings for technical assistance to local CPMTs, FAPTs, and local fiscal agents.</p> <p>The 2009 General Assembly amended this item to specify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training must include building community-based services, including creation of partnerships with private providers and non-profit groups;</li> <li>• a training plan shall be presented to and approved by the SEC before the beginning of each fiscal year;</li> <li>• a training calendar and timely notice of programs shall be provided to CPMTs and FAPTs statewide, as well as to local fiscal agents and localities' chief administrative officers; and</li> <li>• a report on all regional and statewide training sessions in the fiscal year shall be provided to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and to the members of the State Executive Council by December 1 of each year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>CSA has begun conducting regional and statewide training. Announcements and updated information about scheduled training are now available under a "What's New" section on the homepage of the CSA website <a href="http://www.csa.state.va.us">http://www.csa.state.va.us</a>.</p> <p>The 2010 fiscal year plan is pending as of this date.</p> <p>The SEC's 2009 annual report on regional and statewide training sessions will be released December 1.</p>

**COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p><b>Utilization of Residential Facilities for Treatment of Children –</b> Pursuant to § 2.2-5200 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) are required to ensure that services and funding are consistent with the policies of preserving families and providing appropriate services in the least restrictive environment, while protecting the welfare of children and maintaining public safety. Each locality must submit to the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) information on utilization of residential facilities for treatment of children and length of stay in such facilities.</p> <p>This mandate evolved from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study on utilization of children's residential facilities, which led to establishment of a Task Force convened by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to review the adequacy of regulations related to children's residential facilities and a change in funding to increase the stipend paid to foster families by 13 percent.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Budget language in the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act is as follows: Item 283-B-2d of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act requires the OCS to report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on utilization rates and average length of stays statewide and, for each locality, by December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.</p> <p>Item 293-C-c stipulates that, beginning July 1, 2009, the local match rate for non-Medicaid residential services for each locality shall be 25 percent above FY 2007 base rate after a locality has incurred a total of \$200,000 in residential care expenditures. The 2009 General Assembly amended the added that the local match rate for all Medicaid services in both years shall be based on the match rate in place on September 1, 2008.</p> <p>The Utilization Management/Utilization Review (UM/UR) Coordinators' Group has participated in development of the UM/UR Model Utilization Management Plan and a CSA/UM/UR policy which will be used by localities as a framework.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p><b>Evidence-based Practices for Community-based Care</b> Item 283-C-3d of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act directs the State Executive Council (SEC) to monitor the implementation of the incentives and disincentives included in Item 3, provide technical assistance and recommend evidence-based best practices to assist localities in transitioning individuals into community-based care.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	Beginning November 1, 2008 and each year thereafter, the SEC shall provide an update to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the outcomes of this initiative.
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p><b>Educational Services for Students in Treatment</b> Item N of the 2009 Appropriation Act stipulates that the State Executive Council shall work with the Department of Education to ensure that CSA funding is sufficient to pay for educational services for students placed in or admitted to state or privately operated psychiatric or residential treatment facilities in order to meet the educational needs of the students as prescribed in the students' Individual Educational Plan (IECP).</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	



**COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p><b>SB 1180 (Hanger, 2009)</b> requires the State Executive Council (SEC) to report and analyze expenditures associated with children who do not receive pool funding and have emotional and behavioral problems.</p> <p>The bill also requires the Council to identify funding streams used to purchase services in addition to pooled, Medicaid, and Title IV-E funding.</p> <p>Both reporting requirements would be included in the biennial state progress report on comprehensive services to children, youth, and families delivered to the General Assembly and community policy and management teams.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The SEC is receiving updates on the progress of meeting this directive.</p> <p>The biennial report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees is due in late Fall 2009.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p><b>SB 1181 (Hanger, 2009)</b> amends the <i>Code of Virginia</i> to require the Director of the Office of Comprehensive Services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to the State Executive Council all expenditures associated with serving children who receive pool-funded services, including all services purchased with pool funding, all treatment, foster care case management, and residential care funded by Medicaid, and all child-specific payments made through the Title IV-E program;</li> <li>• report to the State Executive Council on the nature and cost of all services provided to the population of at risk and troubled children identified by the Council as within the scope of the CSA program;</li> <li>• develop and distribute model job descriptions for the position of Comprehensive Services Act Coordinator and provide technical assistance to localities and coordinators to help them guide localities in prioritizing the coordinators' responsibilities toward activities to maximize program effectiveness and minimize spending; and</li> <li>• develop and distribute guidelines, approved by the State Executive Council, regarding the development and use of multidisciplinary teams to encourage utilization of multidisciplinary teams in service planning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The initiative was announced to SEC members at its March 25 meeting. Planning within the Office of Comprehensive Services is underway such that requirements can be met.</p>

## CHILD WELFARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of the Governor	<p>The <b>Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives</b> was established to coordinate executive branch efforts of early childhood programs and strengthen public and private programs. The Working Group, chaired by the Secretary of Education, brings together high-level staff from cabinet offices and State agencies in the areas of Education, Health and Human Resources, Economic Development, Finance and Policy.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Working Group meets every other month to provide oversight to the coordination of the Alignment Project components.</p>
Social Services	<p><b>The Alignment Project</b>, started in February 2006 and spearheaded by the Department of Social Services (DSS), now involves a team of professionals from many agencies under four secretariats, other agencies, and organizations from throughout Virginia. It functions under the oversight of the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood initiatives, which is discussed in a preceding section.</p> <p>The Alignment Project is the umbrella for the Governor's primary early childhood initiatives: Smart Beginnings, Start Strong, and the Star Quality Initiative. These are discussed in the sections which follow.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>New publications recently released through the Alignment Project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Milestones of Children Development</i></li> <li>• <i>Competencies of the Early Childhood Professional</i></li> <li>• Related to Virginia's Star Quality (Quality Rating and Improvement System) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Virginia's Star Quality Standard for Center-Based Classrooms</i></li> <li>- <i>Brief Overview of Virginia's QRIS</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>With support from Capital One, Virginia's Star Quality Initiative provides quality standards for early learning programs on a five star scale. It offers a market-based solution to facilitate quality consistency among early childhood programs, support continuous quality improvement in partnership with public and private early education providers, and encourage a continuum of care and education throughout various provider settings, so that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to succeed. There is an Advisory Team overseeing the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Pilot Demonstration and providing guidance and strategic recommendations for Virginia's Star Quality Initiative.</p>

## CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation	<p><b>Smart Beginnings</b> — a component of the Alignment Project — is a statewide collaboration with the broad goal of sharing information and efforts to direct new and improved resources to families with children from birth to age five.</p> <p>At the state level, leadership for Smart Beginnings is provided by the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives (GWG) in the public sphere and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) in the private sphere. The planning process for Virginia's early childhood system of services involves approximately 50 partners statewide in both private and public sectors.</p> <p>The initiative highlights the health, social and emotional and cognitive needs of very young children, and urges partners in every community to plan and partner strategically for a strong early childhood system to meet these needs successfully. It focuses on parent education, including new parent information about early childhood development, and consumer education information for parents regarding selecting and accessing quality child care and preschool programs. Another key component of this initiative is public education messages about the correlation between high quality, early childhood education and a competitive workforce and ultimately a vital economy.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Smart Beginnings plan is designed to provide practical guidelines, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prioritized goals, measurable objectives and strategies;</li> <li>• outcomes to measure progress; and</li> <li>• clear accountability and communication of results.</li> </ul> <p>Details of Smart Beginning's plan are on their website <a href="http://www.smartbeginnings.org">www.smartbeginnings.org</a>.</p>
Office of the Governor/ Social Services	<p><b>Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF)</b> is a public-private partnership with a mission to provide collaborative leadership to foster Smart Beginnings for all young children in Virginia. As a nonprofit organization, the VECF provides grants, training and technical assistance to local communities to build their capacity to provide early childhood services.</p> <p>The Foundation was recommended by the Early Learning Council Task Force, which was charged with recommending strategies to improve Virginia's ability to provide early learning experiences to children from birth to age five. In making the recommendation, the Council cited the need for a state-level 501(c)(3) entity to lead an aggressive agenda to build the State's infrastructure for an effective early childhood system. In response, the Foundation was created in December 2005.</p> <p>VECF relies on the shared leadership of local councils to provide strategic planning, effective integration of programs and services, decision-making and accountability for local delivery, implementation and outcomes.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The required VECF 2008 Annual Report is posted on both the Smart Beginnings website and the General Assembly Legislative Information System website as <i>Report Document 251</i> (2008). The Annual Report addresses the following two legislative mandates:</p> <p>The 2008-2010 Appropriation Act allocated \$5 million over the biennium to support Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, with the goal of promoting programs that enhance the health, safety and well-being of Virginia's youth. Item 344-E-1 directs the Foundation to account for the expenditure of these funds by providing the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees with a certified audit and full report on initiatives and results not later than October 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year ending June 30.</p> <p>Also, on or before October 1 of each year, Item 344-E-2 requires VECF to submit to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees a report on the actual amount, by fiscal year, of private and local government funds received by the Foundation.</p>

**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	<p>The <b>Council on Reform (CORE)</b> was established in 2008 based on Virginia's Services reform efforts initiated by First Lady Anne Holton and her <i>For Keeps Initiative</i> and was a recommendation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.</p> <p>The critical reform areas that CORE is addressing are related to a statewide philosophy that is family-focused, child-centered and community-based, issues related to permanency, congregate (residential) care and quality issues.</p> <p>CORE is comprised of the 13 localities, DJJ, DOE, CSBs and CSA. CORE works with the 13 localities to develop a shared vision for children's services and best practices at state and local levels. After they have the program in the 13 localities (Phase I) it will be taken statewide (Phase II).</p> <p>Raymond R. Ratke was appointed by the Governor in 2008 to be Special Advisor for Children's Services Reform under the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. This role is now full-time. The Advisor coordinates and merges service delivery, technical assistance and policy development across Virginia's child-serving agencies, in effect creating an office of children's services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>CORE had its first meeting in December 2007. It has since established Workgroups to address child welfare best practices, competency based training, cleaning up key data elements in OASIS, identifying performance measure, working with a national expert on family recruitment and retention, and working with a private workgroup that also has a national private provider expert. The role of the workgroups is still undetermined at this time.</p> <p>CORE approved a Strategic Plan for its Transformation Initiative on December 10, 2008.</p> <p>At the state level, the cross-system Transformation Workgroup is working to expand the practice model, discussing how to develop common outcomes that can be used across Virginia's child serving agencies and how best to expand Transformation to the localities. The Annie E. Casey Foundation continues to work with Virginia's child welfare system and is currently assisting the OCS and the Children's Services System Transformation Workgroup on taking the initiative statewide.</p> <p>In 2009, CORE is meeting quarterly. An Executive Planning Committee meets monthly. CORE's goal for 2009 is to spread the transformation to all child serving agencies so that everyone takes ownership and that all are operating from the same beliefs. The plans for 2009 include quickly spreading the transformation statewide and expanding to engage other child serving agencies. This will be accomplished through four strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Information Sharing;</li> <li>• Training: Becoming the Experts;</li> <li>• Building Regional Capacity: Rolling Out the Transformation Statewide; and</li> <li>• CORE</li> </ul> <p>CORE leadership has hosted a series of Transformation Kickoff Forums across the state. These forums are providing localities an opportunity to learn more about the Transformation work to date, plans for implementation statewide, and how localities can benefit and become involved in the Transformation Initiative. These forums are also providing an opportunity for people to provide input on the Transformation process. The impact of the initiative is producing measurable results, e.g. Dinwiddie and Roanoke, two of CORE's 13 sites, report "permanency rates" have risen by as much as 20 percent.</p> <p>Regional collaboratives are being planned to begin replicating the results of the Transformation Initiative in the CORE localities statewide through a sustainable regionally led structure. Those areas of the state that already have regional collaborative partnerships in place are being identified so that Transformation Regional Collaboratives can be aligned with meetings and/or trainings of those existing groups.</p>

**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Education/Social Services	<p>The <b>Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD)</b> is a newly-created entity in the executive branch. OECD, which represents an interagency approach to managing services for young children and their families, spans the Virginia Departments of Education and Social Services and links to the Department of Health to coordinate programs and services that serve young children and their families, with the goal of maximizing opportunities for Virginia's children to reach kindergarten healthy and prepared for school success.</p> <p>The Office's goal is to expand access to and coordinate Virginia's system of early childhood development programs – birth to age five – and to provide a continuum of services and education to Virginia's neediest children and their families.</p> <p>The Office's objectives include interagency coordination and program alignment, development of a coordinated professional development system for the early childhood workforce, and an integrated data system to improve policy, programming, and budget decisions.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Creation of the office was announced by the Governor on April 13, 2008. On July 1, the Office began coordinating state programs aimed at improving the lives and education of young children, including Virginia Preschool Initiative, Head Start, childcare subsidies, and provider services. Also, the office works through a liaison with the Department of Health to ensure the integration of health-related programs. It is preparing to launch a website at <a href="http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov">www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov</a> which details further its work.</p> <p>To further goals of interagency collaboration, OECD has received a grant to integrate data. In partnership with Virginia Tech, OECD has been awarded a Child Care State Research Capacity-Cooperative Agreements Grant. This project is a three-year effort designed to develop an integrated, interagency data system that enables policymakers to assess the impact of OECD initiatives on the quality of child care available for, and used by, low-income working parents and at-risk families. The federal grant and matching funding will be used to support collaborative data gathering involving VDSS, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Tech, local departments of social services and school districts, Head Start, and other partners. This grant, valued at approximately \$850,000 is provided by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation.</p>
Social Services	<p><b>Foster Care Training</b></p> <p>Item 337-A of the 2008-10 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Office of Comprehensive Services, to provide training to local staff serving on Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs) and Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs). Training shall address federal and state requirements pertaining to the provision of the foster care services funded under § 2.2-5211 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>. Training, which shall also include written guidance on which services remain the financial responsibility of the local departments, shall be provided on a regional basis at least annually.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>DSS and the Independent Living Coordinators Committee, Central Region, have scheduled special training for those who work with teens in foster care Saturday, June 6 in Richmond. The "Permanency for Teens in Foster Care" program is designed for foster parents, community partners, mental health support workers, in-home workers and stakeholders. Guest speakers Pat O'Brien and Dr. Dawn Wadiak will address brain development, stress, trauma and effective ways to heal youth within the foster home. Speakers will also discuss the importance of permanency for older youth in foster care, what it means to be a "forever family," understanding the difference between legal adoption and moral adoption and strategies to prevent disruptions.</p>

## CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The <b>Virginia Information and Referral (I&amp;R) System</b> has existed for almost a quarter of a century. Section 63.2-222 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> established a statewide I&amp;R system, which is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Collect and maintain accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis;</li> <li>▪Link citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs;</li> <li>▪Assist in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and</li> <li>▪Provide information to assist decision-makers in allocating financial and other resources to respond to State and local human service priorities.</li> </ul> <p>The 2009 Appropriation Act appropriated the Department of Social Services \$473,844 from the general fund and \$781,791 from the federal trust fund to support statewide implementation.</p> <p>Item 344-M-2 and M-3 of the Appropriation Act direct DSS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request that all state and local child-serving agencies be included in the Virginia Statewide I&amp;R System, as well as any agency or entity that receives state general fund dollars and provides services to families and youth. The Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Public Safety shall assist in this effort by requesting all affected agencies within their Secretariats to submit information to the statewide I&amp;R System and ensure that such information is accurate and updated annually. Agencies shall also notify the Virginia I&amp;R System of changes in services that occur throughout the year.</li> <li>▪ Communicate with Virginia child-serving agencies about the availability of the statewide I&amp;R System. This information shall also be communicated via the DSS' broadcast system on their agency-wide Intranet so that all local and regional offices can be better informed about the Statewide I&amp;R System. Information on the Statewide I&amp;R System shall also be included within the Department's electronic mailings to all local and regional offices at least biannually.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Commission Initiative</p>	<p>In Fall 2004, the Commission on Youth, as part of its two-year legislative initiative on Strengthening Families, approved a study recommendation supporting the statewide Information &amp; Referral System for 2-1-1. The Commission subsequently adopted 2-1-1 as a stand-alone initiative for the 2005 study year.</p> <p>On February 11, 2008, Northern Virginia was added to the 2-1-1 network, making 2-1-1 available statewide. Effective July 1, 2008, 2-1-1 offers services statewide, 24 hours, 7 days a week.</p> <p>Virginia service providers are the Council of Community Services (Roanoke), Family Resource &amp; Referral (Staunton), The Planning Council (Norfolk), United Way of Central Virginia (Lynchburg), and United Way of Greater Richmond &amp; Petersburg. Centers are certified through AIRS, the international Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. Virginia's AIRS is a statewide association of organizations, agencies and individuals committed to ensuring that all Virginians have access to quality health and human services information – and is an affiliate of the international AIRS organization.</p> <p>2-1-1 offers callers a connection to a trained professional who provides referrals to health and human services, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic human needs</li> <li>• Work initiatives (including GED preparation and educational/vocational training programs)</li> <li>• Support to seniors and those with disabilities (including relative caregiver information)</li> <li>• Support for children, youth and families (including after-school programs, tutoring, mentorships, protective services, early childhood learning programs, child care referral centers)</li> <li>• Volunteer service opportunities (including donated goods)</li> <li>• Physical and mental health resources (including pre-natal care, children's health insurance, support groups).</li> </ul> <p>An article in the Richmond Times Dispatch on March 12, 2009 discussed Virginia's move from a "D" to a "C" in overall ranking by National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Part of the reason for the improved grade was that Virginia was rated #1 in the nation because of its 2-1-1 service and the access to information and translators. The full report is available at <a href="http://www.211virginia.org">www.211virginia.org</a>.</p>

**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Social Services/ Correctional Education	<p><b>Prisoner Re-entry Programs</b> Item 338-H of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Education, to identify and apply for federal, private and faith-based grants for pre-release parenting programs for non-custodial incarcerated parent offenders committed to the Department of Corrections.</p> <p>Budget language requires DSS to identify certain grant programs including, but not limited to the following grant programs: Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriages, State Child Access and Visitation Block Grant, Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative Collaboration, Special Improvement Projects, §1115 Social Security Demonstration Grants, and new grant programs authorized under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Code Section 2.2-213.2, amended in 2006, stipulates that the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, with the Secretary of Public Safety, shall establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and provision of services for children with incarcerated parents among state, local, nonprofit agencies, and faith-based organizations to provide such children with services needed to continue parental relationships with the incarcerated parent, where appropriate, and encourage healthy relationships in the family and community.</p> <p>In 2007, the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Re-entry to Society (SJR 327, Puller) also reviewed proposals to facilitate the successful reintegration of prisoners to their communities.</p> <p>To test the recommendations of the Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy, DSS has established seven pilot programs to work with those incarcerated in Virginia correctional facilities and/or local jails. The feedback will help decisions makers develop effective pre- and post-re-entry services.</p> <p>Included on the DSS webpage for Prisoner Re-entry Pilot Programs is a link to a presentation titled "Realistic Child Support Policies that Support Successful Re-entry."</p>
Social Services	<p><b>Prison Re-Entry Academy</b> has assisted Virginia in developing better prisoner re-entry policies. Virginia was one of seven states selected in 2003 by the National Governor's Association as a pilot program. There are four re-entry barriers included in the curriculum: employment and education; financial obligations/housing/and financial and community resources; health/mental health and substance abuse; and family and community reintegration.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>One of the key elements identified in the Virginia re-entry plan is "Strengthen relationships/reduce tensions between offenders and families." To enable that, the following activities were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop and distribute handbook for families to improve visitation and access to support groups;</li> <li>• expand video project "Messages from Mom/Dad" for inmates to send to children;</li> <li>• modify cost structure for inmate telephone system to reduce financial burden on families and encourage increased communication;</li> <li>• expand availability of parenting programs within prison system;</li> <li>• develop system assessment instrument for family/social support structures; and</li> <li>• develop family counseling and mentoring program to prepare both offenders and their families for re-entry.</li> </ul>
Criminal Justice Services	<p><b>Virginia CARES</b> is a non-profit statewide organization administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and funded by the General Fund, federal CSB block grants and earmark funds. It provides pre- and post-release services to Virginia offenders and ex-offenders. Chartered in 1979, the organization originally operated under a local community action agency in Roanoke; its central office continues to reside there.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Virginia CARES maintains statistics on, among other issues, participants who complete and implement life plans that change their futures and are establishing responsible relationships with their families and children.</p> <p>CARES currently focuses on mentoring children of prisoners in partnership with Roanoke's New Vision Youth Services, which provides the mentoring services. CARES, which provides fiscal oversight and coordination, is developing a proposal for a three-year grant to mentor children of incarcerated parents in Roanoke Valley. CARES continues to explore the possibility of offering the program to incarcerated youth, but program expansion is contingent on additional funding.</p>

## CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p><b>Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV)</b> is a statewide, private nonprofit organization leading a coalition of community partners across the Commonwealth. It coordinates <b>Healthy Families Virginia (HFV)</b>, a statewide system of support and information for all new families about parenting and community resources. It makes home visiting services available to families who need personal guidance. Other direct service programs include Hugs and Kisses and Nurturing Programs. In addition, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia provides Awareness Activities, such as Child Abuse Prevention Month promotions and a "Together for Children" newsletter, as well as educational opportunities and advocacy.</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse Virginia's outreach extends into Virginia's adult correctional facilities to reach incarcerated parents of minor children. <b>Mothers Inside Loving Kids (MILK)</b>, in operation since the 1980s, transferred to Fluvanna Correctional Facility for Women when it opened in 1998. The program is a series of day-long mother/child visits develops skills in mothers who have completed required parenting classes. There are currently approximately 40 incarcerated mothers who were first identified by staff and ultimately approved after interviews with the Board of Directors.</p> <p>The Department of Social Services administers both the Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program (VFVPP) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program grants for child abuse and neglect prevention. The VFVPP Program was established in 1982 for purposes stated in the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, 63.2-1502.3: "To assist in developing programs aimed at discovering and preventing the many factors causing child abuse and neglect."</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Item 344-D of the 2009 Appropriation Act provides \$1,332,959 the first year from the general fund and \$4,139,820 the first year and \$5,472,779 the second year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to support Health Families Virginia. The Department of Social Services is directed to allocate funds from this item to the statewide office of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) for providing the coordination, technical support, quality assurance, training and evaluation of the Healthy Families Virginia program. Other direct service programs and activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (800) Children, a statewide helpline offering resources and education for parents, caregivers, and professionals;</li> <li>• Family Resource Center;</li> <li>• Circle of Parents parent/child support groups;</li> <li>• Hugs and Kisses child sexual abuse prevention play;</li> <li>• Nurturing Programs Parenting Programs®; and</li> <li>• Child Abuse Prevention Month activities coordination.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Summary to the General Assembly of their statewide evaluation report for FY 2004-2008 was published in January 2009. A link to this publication, as well as to 2009 child abuse prevention materials, is provided at <a href="http://www.preventchildabuseva.org">www.preventchildabuseva.org</a>.</p> <p>PCAV has recently been recognized by Healthy Families America (HFA), for their successful quality management of the Virginia Healthy Families (HFV) sites. All eligible sites have successfully completed the accreditation process. As a result, PCAV and the HFV sites have been invited to go through the process of accreditation as a state system rather than on an individual basis. This option has only been offered to state government agencies in other states that fund a network of Healthy Families sites. The lengthy process which involves the submission of evidence of adherence to more than 100 best practice standards, will be complete in late 2010, with re-certification of PCAV and 60 percent of the individual sites every four years thereafter.</p> <p>The report, mandated by the General Assembly in 2008, directs DSS with PCAV to develop a process for determining which HFV sites are able to begin expanding. The original report language included four sites but in the aftermath of budget shortfalls, it was reduced to two. Following the intensive application and review process, Culpeper and Alexandria were selected as the recommended sites, but the decision to delay funding requests to the General Assembly has put the anticipated expansions on hold.</p> <p>PCAV sponsored, in part, a statewide symposium on child abuse prevention on April 24, 2009 in Richmond. Event theme was "Building Strong Families, Growing Great Kids." Keynote speaker was Mark Washington, who served as a Casey Foundation consultant to Virginia. Other sponsors were DSS, Family and Children's Trust Fund, Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention, and Child Abuse Prevention Committee.</p>



**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Social Services	<p>The <b>Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC)</b> is the primary organization to advise the Virginia Department of Social Services' Director of the Division of Family Services on child welfare issues. It helps ensure that all child welfare activities are child-centered, family-focused and community-based. This group is the main stakeholder group for the Child and Family Services Review. Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advise on child welfare program, policy, training and practice issues;</li> <li>• advise on the development of the five-year Child and Family Services Plan and annual progress reports, as well as other state plans under the responsibility of Family Services; and</li> <li>• guide development and implementation of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan for any element that Virginia does not meet requirements of the Child and Family Services Review.</li> </ul> <p>Committee membership includes advocacy groups, private providers, local and state public agencies and foster/adoptive parents. Various subcommittees address child protection, permanency and training.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Committee Member</p>	<p>CWAC meetings are generally held on the third Friday of each month. 2009 meetings have been held April 17 and May 15. The committee meets next on June 19.</p> <p>Agenda highlights at the April meeting included the impact of federal stimulus money which affects primarily Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption funding and upcoming on-site Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) in Fairfax, Hampton and Tazewell. The July 17 meeting date will coincide with the DSS exit conference for the reviews and will likely feature links to the Children's Services Systems Transformation, as well as the next steps for the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). CWAC members were briefed on the Transformation initiative, on CORE, and on the consideration being given to creating a kinship care program.</p>
Office of the Governor	<p>Formation of a <b>Poverty Reduction Taskforce</b> was announced by the Governor at a summit held on May 7, 2009. The Taskforce will spend a year identifying challenges and opportunities to lift children and families out of poverty. One of its stated goals is to find ways to protect children in poverty.</p> <p>The Taskforce receives financial support through a grant program funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and administered by the National Governors Association.</p> <p>There are three working groups: asset development, individual and community resilience, and workforce training and education. Three General Assembly members have been appointed to serve on the Taskforce.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Taskforce, which is being co-chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Richmond attorney Robert Grey, will present its short- and long-term policy recommendations in the spring of 2010 at a summit on poverty presented in partnership with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices.</p> <p>There will be regional community meetings held in partnership with the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia to obtain constituent perspectives on poverty in their communities.</p>

## CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p><b>Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP)</b> is the statewide membership association for Virginia's thirty non-profit private and public community action agencies which work to fight poverty and build self-sufficiency for strong families and communities.</p> <p>Item 344-A-3 of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act directs VACAP to support the Virginia Earned Income Tax Coalition and provide grants to local organizations to provide outreach, education and tax preparation services to citizens who may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Budget language requires the Department of Social Services to report its findings no later than December 1 of each year to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. 2008 findings were published in December as <i>Report on the Virginia Community Action Partnership Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Virginia CASH Campaign, Report Document 374</i>.</p> <p>The VACAP 2009 Workshop Conference is June 8-11, 2009 in Virginia Beach. Workshops are offered on Creative Projects using Stimulus Funds, Strategic Communication, Working with Sex Offenders, Building your Efforts to Promote Self-Sufficiency, and Reimbursement of Client Services for VA Cares Program.</p>
Social Services	<p><b>HB 1904</b> (2009, Armstrong) establishes the <b>Virginia Child Protection Accountability System</b> to collect and make available to the public information on the response to reported cases of child abuse in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The <i>Code of Virginia</i> now requires that the System include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the total number of complaints alleging child abuse, neglect, or a combination thereof received;</li> <li>b) the total number of complaints deemed valid pursuant to § 63.2-1508;</li> <li>c) the total number of complaints investigated by the Department pursuant to subsection I of § 63.2-1503 and § 63.2-1505;</li> <li>d) the total number of cases determined to be founded cases of abuse or neglect; and</li> <li>e) the total number of cases resulting in a finding that the complaint was founded resulting in administrative appeal.</li> </ul> <p>(Information reported shall be reported by total number of appeals to the local department, total number of appeals to the Department, and total number of appeals by outcome of the appeal.)</p> <p>For each category of information required by this subdivision, DSS shall also report the total number of cases by type of abuse; by gender, age, and race of the alleged victim; and by the nature of the relationship between the alleged victim and alleged abuser.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Department of Social Services' planning is underway.</p>

**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Housing and Community Development	<p>A <b>Child Care for Homeless Children program and the Child Services Coordinator Grant</b> are established in conjunction with State Shelter Grant and Emergency Shelter Grants. Funding for the program is, in part, through the Virginia Department of Social Services' Child Care and Development funds, for \$300,000 in FY 2009.</p> <p>The grants assist homeless families with the cost of child care while they are employed or enrolled in an educational/job training program. They provide support for the shelters' child services coordinator and ensure that children in shelters receive health and mental health care and that their educational needs are met. Awards are designated for the operation, administration and supportive services for both emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Grant recipients are nonprofit and local government providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing for the homeless. Grants are provided through four program areas: State shelter Grants, federally funded Emergency Shelter Grants, Child Service Coordinator Grant, and the Child Care for the Homeless Children Grant program. A complete listing of shelters and localities receiving funding is provided on the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) website at <a href="http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov">www.dhcd.virginia.gov</a>.</p>
Social Services	<p>Through Virginia Child Care Resource and Referral Network, which receives funding through DSS' Division of Child Care and Development, the <b>Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)</b> supports the efforts of out-of-school time programs and advocate for improvement and enhancement of quality out-of-school programs throughout Virginia.</p> <p>Item 344-3-Q of the 2009 Appropriation Act mandates that DSS examine the feasibility of partnering with the Virginia Alliance of Boys &amp; Girls Clubs to provide children services through local club sites through a matching program using federal TANF funding. As part of its analysis, the Department shall assess whether such services would qualify for TANF funding and if funding these services would have a greater impact on at-risk children than other programs funded using TANF dollars.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The organization held its first time on April 21, 2009. There was consensus that Virginia needs to create a network of networks to build a strong coalition to support the group's goals.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for June 9 at the Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Department of Social Services has launched a series of <b>Public Information Public Service Announcements</b> as on-line podcasts which are designed for individual, organizational, or media use at no cost.</p> <p>Available on the DSS website for download, current podcasts utilize a contemporary media format. Podcasts related to youth issues address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-1-1 Virginia (two spots)</li> <li>• Putative Father Registry and "Most Wanted" Initiative</li> <li>• Kinship Care</li> <li>• For Keeps Initiative for Foster Care</li> <li>• CBS TV special on adoption featuring Virginia Family (originally aired Dec 2008)</li> <li>• Domestic Violence</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Individuals and organizations can register to receive new podcasts as they become available or each of those archived can be listened to (or used) separately.</p> <p>Information about the service is available at <a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov/news/podcasts/podcasts.xml">www.dss.virginia.gov/news/podcasts/podcasts.xml</a>.</p>

**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Social Services	<p>The scope of Virginia's programs is presented in DSS' quarterly <b>Virginia Child Protection Newsletter</b> (VCPN). The scholarly periodical, which provides service providers and educators with detailed descriptions of Virginia programs, current research, and national trends, is published by DSS Child Protective Services Unit and James Madison University's Department of Psychology. It is available in both print and Internet versions at <a href="http://www.psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh">www.psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh</a>.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	The Spring 2009 issue reports on the mental health needs of foster children and children at-risk for removal.
Office of the Governor/ Governor's Commission for Community and National Service/ Virginia Corps/ Office on Volunteerism and Community Service	<p><b>Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Public Service</b> recognize the significant contributions of Virginia citizens to the life and welfare of the Commonwealth and its people. Awards are presented to organizations, businesses, families, and individuals whose volunteer and community service efforts focus on building and strengthening the Commonwealth of Virginia.</p> <p>Awards are given in the following 14 categories: Business; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery; Faith-based Organization; Family; Government; National Service, Individual; National Service, Program; Nonprofit Group; Senior Volunteer; Volunteer age 19-64; Youth Organization; and Volunteer Adult.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>2009 award recipients working on behalf of the welfare of children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nonprofit Group – Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC). VEFC addresses the needs of abused, neglected, runaway, homeless and at-risk children. Since 1979, the organization has maintained approximately 150 volunteer families across the state that open their homes to children. VEFC coordinators work within the community to recruit volunteer families, maintain relationships with service agencies, fundraise, and provide public education.</li> <li>▪ Volunteer – Carolyn LeCroy, Norfolk. After her own release from incarceration, Ms. LeCroy established a program which addressed incarcerated parents and their children. The program – now known as “The Messages Project” –has utilized her expertise as a media producer and that of other professionals enlisted as participants to help parents make simple videotaped messages for their children. Since 1999, she and others have traveled to Virginia prisons at their own expense to produce approximately 3,500 videotapes.</li> <li>▪ Youth Volunteer, Ashley Louise Gregory, Mechanicsville. The 15 year-old's volunteer work has focused on children with disabilities, including founding a free dance camp called Ashley's Angels and working at school in a program which pairs students with kids having disabilities. In addition, she has participated in numerous charity fund-raising events.</li> </ul> <p>Awards were given in a special ceremony on April 15.</p>
Voices for Virginia's Children	<p><b>Kids Count</b> data system is an on-going nationwide effort to monitor key statistical indicators of the well-being of children. Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count gives policy makers, researchers, government and elected officials, funders and others ready access to more than 100 up-to-date statistical indicators of health status, educational achievement, poverty and socio-economic status, family and community demographics reflecting overall child-being and risk factors that threaten well-being. The data is presented such that Virginia data can be compared to other states and national trends.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Advisory Group Member</p>	<p>Voices for Virginia's Children, a non-profit organization, is part of the Kids Count national network.</p> <p>An Advisory Group of professionals has been convened to assess data needs in Virginia.</p> <p>Members met on February 24 to discuss the best ways to collect and present child data in Virginia.</p>

**CHILD WELFARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Social Services	<p>The <b>Community Builders' Network of Virginia (CBN)</b> is a non-profit organization which serves as a network of community-based coalitions.</p> <p>The coalitions which make up this organization collectively offer alternative activities to youth and adults which focus on eliminating alcohol and substance abuse, strengthening family structure and other positive activities.</p> <p>CBN offers financial and technical support, networking opportunities, and educational training and collaborates with all member coalitions to provide technical assistance, planning, education and training as a means for facilitating coalition based activities.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Participant</p>	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference will be held August 13-15, 2009 in Richmond. As in years past, a panel of Virginia General Assembly members will discuss a current topic of interest to participants.

**HUMAN SERVICES**

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
State and Local Agencies Representatives	<p><b>Virginia Association for Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO)</b> is comprised of State and local government officials. Full membership is limited to the single most senior official in a locality who has broad responsibilities for multiple agencies delivering human services. Most members have direct oversight or liaison responsibilities for health, mental health and social services. VALHSO advises state agency heads or members of the General Assembly members on these topics.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	VALHSO generally meets quarterly; however, additional meetings are added as needed for specific areas of interest.

## KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Medical Assistance Services	<p><b>Treatment Foster Care and Residential Psychiatric Services Training</b> — Item 306-P of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act requires the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), in cooperation with the State Executive Council, to offer semi-annual training to local Comprehensive Services Act teams on the procedures for use of Medicaid for residential treatment and treatment foster care services, including but not limited to procedures for determining eligibility, billing, reimbursement, and reporting requirements.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p><i>Report Document 184</i> (2008) details the most recent training activities of DMAS.</p>
Social Services	<p><b>HB 2500 (Ward, 2009)</b> Requires DSS to identify and work together with faith-based, volunteer, private, and community-based organizations to develop and implement the "A Place of My Own" program, to seek and accept donations and coordinate the distribution of luggage for children in foster care.</p> <p>The legislation provides that the program may accept grants, gifts, donations, and bequests to support the program.</p> <p><b>Commission involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Funds were not allocated in the 2009 Appropriation Act but the bill's patron is conducting private fundraising and involving members of the community in the distribution effort. Donations of luggage can currently be made to Delegate Ward's General Assembly Building office.</p>
Aging	<p>The <b>Kinship Care Initiative</b> is a statewide Task Force and information network which focuses on inter-generational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community.</p> <p>Sponsored by the Brookdale Foundation's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP), the Initiative offers support groups and information for relatives serving as parents. It also works closely with other state agencies and private organizations to meet the service needs of kinship care families. One of these groups, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, has developed a curriculum and lecture series entitled <i>Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Rights and Responsibilities</i>.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Task Force Member</p>	<p>The statewide 2009 Kinship Care Conference is October 8-10 in Newport News, titled <i>Fostering Connections: Exploring Models for Kinship Families</i>.</p> <p>On April 23, 2009, the University of Maine Center on Aging RAPP offered an on-line conversation for teens ages 12-18 living with relatives. Two professionals facilitated the conversation.</p> <p>Brighton Solid Rock, Inc. has received a Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) local grant. This program organized the 2008 statewide conference on kinship care in Portsmouth and was one of the leaders in Virginia's delegation to the annual Grand Rally in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>The Department for the Aging (VDA) has released its 2009 listing of 12 Support Groups throughout Virginia which assist grandparents providing care. It has also published <i>Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren: A Resource Guide</i> to direct kinship care families to available services. An extensive list of on-line resources is available on the VDA website at <a href="http://www.vda.virginia.gov">www.vda.virginia.gov</a>.</p>

**KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Social Services	<p>The <b>Kinship Care Task Force</b> – co-chaired by Senator Yvonne Miller and Commissioner Anthony Conyers, Jr. – continues its work addressing the needs of grand-parents and others caring for minor children in their families, as well as the needs of the those children. The Task Force, which meets quarterly, was created to examine the feasibility of establishing a Kinship Care program in Virginia.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Senator Miller co-chairs the Task Force; Commission staff serves as a member.</p>	<p>DSS has developed two brochures about kinship care: <i>A Guide to Exploring the Kinship Care Options</i> and <i>Virginia's Legal Options For a Relative When a Child Cannot Live With His Parents</i>.</p> <p>The Task Force met most recently on February 23, 2009.</p>
Social Services	<p><b>FACES</b> (Family Advocacy, Collaboration, Empowerment, and Support) <b>of Virginia Families</b>, the organization seeks to establish a grassroots effort for kinship parents, foster and adoptive parents in Virginia. Formerly the Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Association, FACES is a not-for-profit association funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services.</p> <p>FACES supports recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and adoptive parents and provides information to the State about what families need in terms of support and training. FACES also advocates for the needs of youth and families.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>On May 4, 2007, First Lady Anne Holton and DSS announced the formation of a new Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parent Association (FACES of Virginia's Families).</p> <p>FACES will co-sponsor the second annual statewide conference for kinship care professionals and families on September 11-12 in Williamsburg. Conference theme is "Give Children Wings...and their futures will soar!" Specific sessions are planned to assist parents with prevention, permanency, and parenting skills.</p> <p>In 2008, FACES developed a legislative proposal for a foster care Code of Ethics and Mutual Responsibility which will consistently, across all localities, ensure that foster parents, workers, and administrators are mutually agreeing to support one another. The agreement will be implemented across Virginia on July 1, 2009.</p> <p>Adoption listening tours were conducted on April 27-30 at Norfolk, Richmond, Harrisonburg, Wytheville, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, and Fairfax. These community forums, were led by teams of adoption professionals and adoptive parents of the Community Champions Network, a network of community-based coalitions that help train and empower advocates for post-adoption services for foster and adoptive families in communities throughout the U.S.</p> <p>FACES continues to maintain its toll-free phone number for families (877-VAFACES or 877-823-2237) made possible from a family support contract from the Virginia Department of Social Services.</p> <p>The FACES Board of Directors met most recently on May 16 and is scheduled to meet again on June 20.</p>

**KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION** *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p><b>For Keeps</b> was created to identify and develop ways to find and strengthen permanent families for older children in foster care, or who might be at risk of coming into foster care. For Keeps is founded on the belief that everyone deserves and needs permanent family connections to be successful.</p> <p>For Keeps is a partnership of the Commonwealth's human services agencies, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and other private organizations.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>First Lady Anne Holton launched her foster care initiative, For Keeps, on January 16, 2007 at the Executive Mansion.</p> <p>On May 31, 2008, Governor Tim Kaine formally signed a series of bills intended to reform Virginia's foster care system. The signing ceremony was held in Roanoke at Family Service of Roanoke Valley. Both the Governor and the First Lady lauded the bills for targeting largely older youth in foster care and being "child-centered, family-focused and community-based."</p> <p>For Keeps has been the impetus for numerous foster care and adoption initiatives, including the Council on Reform(CORE) and the Children's Services System Transformation. One year since CORE was launched, CORE agencies have reduced placements in group care by 133 children or 16 percent, decreased the total number of youth in foster care by four percent, and increased their discharges to permanent homes by nine percent.</p> <p>As the Transformation moves forward the First Lady continues outreach to key stakeholders, including CPMTs and Juvenile and Domestic Relations court judges throughout Virginia. The Governor has recognized May as National Foster Care month to encourage Virginians to serve as resource families for foster children.</p>

**CHILD CARE**

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p><b>Automation of Day Care Assistance Program</b> – Item 338-L-1 of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act expresses the General Assembly's intent that the Department of Social Services automate day care assistance programs. Under this budget, the program will receive \$750,000 each year to create the automated management and payment system.</p> <p>The child care subsidy program has grown significantly over the past decade. Expenditures have increased from approximately \$9 million in FY1989 to \$176 million in FY 2006. In FY 2006, child care assistance was provided to over 61,000 children. The child care program is one of the largest assistance programs administered by the Department of Social Services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Budget language requires the Department report on the system's progress to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committees, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Planning and Budget by July 1 of each year.</p> <p>Budget language further requires the Department of Social Services to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 15 of each year regarding the status of such automation, system adequacy and needed action.</p> <p>The Department's most recent annual report was published in Fall 2007 by the General Assembly's Legislative Automated System website as <i>Report Document 277</i>.</p>



**CHILD CARE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Social Services	<p>The <b>Virginia Child Care Resource &amp; Referral Network (VACCRRN)</b> is a statewide network of 14-locally based child care resource and referral agencies assisting parents in finding child care that meets their family's needs. Parents can educate themselves with information a variety of child care issues, such as public policy, cost of care, and range of quality at the local, state, and national levels. VACCRRN is a member of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and is funded through the Virginia Department of Social Services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>VACCRRN has become the home of T.E.A.C.H.® (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps), an educational scholarship program for center-based and family child care providers. It was established in 1989 to promote and support quality child care resources throughout Virginia and to coordinate the efforts of more than a dozen agencies.</p> <p>The 2008-10 Appropriation Act allocated \$350,000 in the first year only. No funding was included for the second year of the biennium.</p>
Social Services	<p>The <b>Child Day Care Council (CDCC)</b> is authorized by the <i>Code of Virginia</i> to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. Also, in collaboration with the Virginia Recreation and Park Society and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, CDCC is charged with promulgating regulations for therapeutic recreation programs.</p> <p>The regulations are to be developed in consultation with representatives of the affected entities and are not to require the adoption of a specific teaching approach or doctrine.</p> <p>The CDCC, which operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, is comprised of a minimum of 28 members appointed by the Governor and representing a variety of interests from around the state. The Council is guided by its 2006-2011 Strategic Plan.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>CDCC generally meets six times per year.</p> <p>At its March 10, 2009 meeting, the Council discussed the impact of the \$90 billion in the federal stimulus package for early childhood development. Virginia will receive \$38 million additional CCDBG funds for child care subsidy. Virginia has two years to commit and three years to expend the funds. Included in the 2009 Legislative Update was details of SB 969 (Blevins), which permits unlicensed child day centers to reduce the number of staff per child during rest time.</p> <p>For detailed review of the Regulation Report dated March 10 2009, CDCC has formed workgroups: Introduction and Administration; Staffing Qualifications and Training: Staffing and Supervision; Physical Plan/Programs; and Special Care Provisions and Emergencies/Special Services. Workgroup meetings will be separate from those of the full Council.</p> <p>2009 meetings are scheduled for June 4, June 9, June 23, August 18, September 10, and November 12.</p>

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	<p>Established by Executive Order 15 (2006), <b>Prevention Comes First</b> expands on the original KIDSafe program to promote, throughout the executive branch, the positive development of Virginia's youth, by addressing the risk and protective factors that lead to youth gang recruitment and activity, substance abuse, delinquency, violence, school dropout, and related adolescent problem behaviors. It coordinates the prevention activities of law enforcement, educators, State and local prevention professionals, and families throughout the Commonwealth. Its initiatives are organized under the direction of the Secretary of Public Safety.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	Executive Order 70 extends the original Order to June 20, 2009.
Secretary of Public Safety	<p><b>Virginia's Interagency Anti-Gang Work Group</b> is a subgroup Prevention Comes First. The Prevention Comes First Anti-Gang Work Group consists of 24 designees from 17 executive branch agencies. Its mission is to cultivate strong collaboration; prioritize, coordinate, and leverage prevention resources; encourage and facilitate wider use of proven prevention programs and strategies; provide training and tools to assist state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and the faith community in assessing needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families; disseminating information on gangs to citizens of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Executive Order 70 extends the Work Group's authorization until June 20, 2009.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	The Anti-Gang Work Group includes representatives from Education, Corrections, Criminal Justice Services, Health, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Social Services, State Police, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council and GOSAP, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, Richmond Behavioral Authority, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, Virginia Sheriffs' Association and VCU's Center for School-Community Collaboration.
Secretary of Public Safety	<p><b>The Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth</b> is a product of Prevention Comes First efforts. Due to the popularity of the KidSafe Virginia parent guides, the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) recently revised and combined the parent guides. The purpose of the <i>Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth</i> is to educate parents on some of the safety threats our children face and assist parents in communicating with their children about personal safety. The topics covered in this guide include: fire safety, internet safety, driving safety, bullying, gangs, inhalant abuse prevention and underage drinking.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Beginning December 15, 2007, parent guides were made available at fire and rescue stations throughout the Commonwealth and at local DMV offices.</p> <p>The guide may also be downloaded at GOSAP's webpage at <a href="http://www.gosap.virginia.gov/preventioncomesfirst.htm">www.gosap.virginia.gov/preventioncomesfirst.htm</a>.</p>

## PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	<p><b>The Community Profile Database</b>, created by the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), with its GOSAP Collaborative, is a one-stop, web-based, interactive tool that provides easy access to a variety of community-level data and prevention resources. It can assist state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and the faith community in assessing needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families to combat gang activity.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Community Profile Database is recognized with a national "Best of the Web" award for innovation. The database provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ community planners with consistent, easily accessible data to help them assess local needs;</li> <li>▪ both public and private organizations with uniform, comparable data to use in developing grant applications;</li> <li>▪ objective data for use in benchmarking and monitoring progress toward achieving targeted outcomes;</li> <li>▪ community risk factors for gang activity (by age group, race/ethnic group, gender, city or county, zip code, where available);</li> <li>▪ resources for addressing gang problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evidence-based programs serving Virginia's youth and families;</li> <li>- links to best practices for addressing gang problems;</li> <li>- links to network with other people involved in gang prevention and early intervention activities; and</li> <li>- training opportunities to instruct individuals how to use the database.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Each activity is evaluated to monitor outcomes and improve effectiveness.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>Approximately <b>\$40 million in grant awards for FY 2009 to improve criminal justice programs and services in Virginia</b> have been announced. In total, 295 grants were approved and awarded to 16 state agencies and 279 non-profit entities.</p> <p>Funds include state funds appropriated by the General Assembly, as well as federal funds allocated to Virginia.</p> <p>Grants specifically fund school resource officers, juvenile delinquency prevention programs, sexual assault programs, criminal justice system improvements, victim witness and sexual assault programs, school resource officers, campus safety programs, crime prevention programs, offender re-entry transitional services, residential substance abuse programs, and comprehensive community corrections programs.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Awards for programs targeting youth include:  Albemarle County—\$97,500 for a Truancy Prevention Program and \$75,000 for Functional Family Therapy Program for Juvenile Offenders;  Fredericksburg— \$97,331 for Positive Alternatives to School Suspension;  Norfolk—a TTLV Truancy Prevention grant for \$66,800; and  Montgomery County—\$96,090 for a Bullying Prevention Program.</p> <p>Numbers of localities received financial assistance for school resource incentives and related programs.</p>

**PUBLIC SAFETY** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The General Assembly, through Item 395-M-1 of the 2009 Appropriation Act, appropriated \$1.5 million for the <b>Crimes Against Children</b>. (These funds were in the State Police appropriation in the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act.)</p> <p>There are two task forces designated for funding: the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Operation Blue Ridge Thunder through the Bedford County Virginia Sheriff's Office is comprised of a cooperative group of law enforcement agencies on the international, federal, regional, state and local levels. The Operation's mission is to safeguard children from Internet crime by weaving a seamless web of protection around them. The unit's commander and investigators have made over 100 presentations to administrators, teachers, parents, community groups and law enforcement professionals nationally and internationally</p> <p>The Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NOVA ICAC) is responsible for Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C.</p>
University of Virginia	<p>The University of Virginia's Curry School of Education's <b>Virginia Youth Violence Project</b> addresses the range of youth violence prevention and school safety issues and provides training and support to schools educators through the Commonwealth. Bullying is included in the project's scope, as more traditional public safety issues.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>On March 25, 2008, the University released the results of its Virginia High School Safety Study as the first statewide effort to assess student attitudes toward and perceptions of their school environments. The survey reflects responses from approximately 296 public high schools and approximately 7,400 on-line survey responses from 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and 2,500 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.</p> <p>A synopsis of the study findings, as well as state and national legislative initiatives, can be accessed at <a href="http://www.youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu">www.youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu</a>.</p>

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
State Crime Commission	<p><b>HB 1843 (Griffith, 2009)</b>, which addresses <b>Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators</b>, makes a number of changes, including requiring that the court records for certain sexual misdemeanors be retained for 50 years; allowing access to juvenile court and DJJ records; addressing challenges to filing defects; allowing access to sealed records; extending to 90 days the time for a probable cause hearing and allowing the respondent to waive his right to such hearing; setting a standard for the court to find probable cause; and extending the number of days after the probable cause hearing for conduct of the trial.</p> <p>The bill as enacted differs from the introduced version. Because the Crime Commission had conducted a study of the issue and certain of the bill's provisions affected Code changes based on study recommendations, the Senate Clerk's Office referred the legislation to the Crime Commission.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Crime Commission received a staff presentation of the legislative history and the provisions of Chapter 740 of the Code at its May 11 meeting. As part of the study, presenters from the Department of Corrections and the Commitment Review Committee will be invited to present at upcoming Commission meetings.</p> <p>The Crime Commission is scheduled to meet again on June 25, September 16, and December 15, 2009.</p>

**JUVENILE JUSTICE** *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
State and Local Juvenile Justice Agencies	<p><b>Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention (VCJD)</b> assists the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in developing standards, certification and evaluation related to detention programs and facilities. VCJD provides information and input to DJJ to aid in the formulation of detention policies and suggests improvements and/or modifications. VCJD also facilitates the collection and dissemination of information related to juvenile detention.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	The Council, which meets quarterly, met most recently on March 3-5 in Staunton.
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The <b>Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice</b>, as mandated by Code Section 9.1-111, is responsible for reviewing the operation of the juvenile justice system, for recommending needs and priorities for the development and improvement of the juvenile justice system and for advising the Governor on matters related to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	The Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Services Section, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services will host this year's annual Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Conference later this year.

**MENTAL HEALTH**

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>SJR 358 (2003) directed the Commission on Youth to update biennially its publication, the <b><i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i></b> (<i>House Document 9</i>, 2003). The purpose of the <i>Collection</i> is to identify effective treatment modalities and practices for children, including juvenile offenders, with mental health treatment needs. Moreover, utilization of evidence-based practices in the field of children's mental health may offer the Commonwealth cost savings.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Commission Study</p>	<p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition was published and disseminated as <i>House Document 21</i> (2008).</p> <p>The Commission on Youth received the 2009 study plan at its May 29, 2009 meeting.</p> <p>The Commission is partnering with School of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University for the biennial update of the 4th Edition of the <i>Collection</i>.</p> <p>The Advisory Group convened by the Commission in 2003 continues to provide input.</p>
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p>Two 2009 General Assembly bills—<b>HB 2300 (Caputo)</b> and <b>SB 1117 (Ticer)</b>—change the name of the Department, Board, Inspector General, and Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to the Department, Board, Inspector General, and Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.</p> <p>The name change more broadly reflects the department's mission, to be flexible enough for the department to grow into other service areas, like autism spectrum disorders, and to move away from the stigma associated with the term "mental retardation."</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The name change legislation contains several enactment clauses that provide for continuity of operations without immediately changing the name of the department in documents such as contracts, policies, and regulations until they are renewed or revised. Thus, contracts and other documents with the old name will continue to be valid. Similarly, certain updates to signage and collateral materials, like letterhead and business cards, will be made gradually to minimize costs.</p> <p>The changes take effect on July 1, 2009. The new web address for the department will be <a href="http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov">www.dbhds.virginia.gov</a>.</p>

**MENTAL HEALTH** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	<p><b>HJR 105 (Valentine, 2008)</b> Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to conduct a two-year study of Virginia's autism spectrum disorder services in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ identify and evaluate best practices in the provision of services for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of autism;</li> <li>▪ methods of providing services to persons with autism; ways to disseminate information regarding best practices; and</li> <li>▪ provide autism education and training for law enforcement and judicial personnel.</li> </ul> <p>In conducting its study, JLARC shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ assess current availability and delivery of autism services in the Commonwealth;</li> <li>▪ identify best practices in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of autism spectrum disorders;</li> <li>▪ evaluate the need and means to disseminate information collected during assessments to relevant service areas including education, law enforcement, rehabilitation, mental health, and emergency services;</li> <li>▪ identify current autism educational and training opportunities available to or provided to law-enforcement and judicial personnel, including law-enforcement officers, public safety personnel, first responders, judges, magistrates, public defenders, Commonwealth's attorneys, and other personnel in the legal system;</li> <li>▪ identify best practices and areas for improvement in autism education and training for law-enforcement and judicial personnel, and other models for providing autism education for law-enforcement and judicial personnel; and</li> <li>▪ recommend ways to improve the delivery of autism services in the Commonwealth, including methods of providing the range of autism educational and training opportunities to law-enforcement and judicial personnel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>JLARC approved its second-year study plan at its May 11, 2009 meeting.</p> <p>The study plan specifies that research and analysis will take place Summer 2008-Winter 2009. JLARC will receive its final briefing and report on June 8, 2009. As of this date, there is no interim briefing scheduled. JLARC has completed a survey to assess how individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) navigate the current service delivery system, access services and coordinate services through the individuals' lifespan.</p> <p>Other 2009 meetings are scheduled for July 13, September 14, October 13, November 9, and December 14.</p> <p>JLARC shall complete its meetings for the second year by November 30, 2009, and the Director shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2010 Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document.</p>
Office for Protection and Advocacy	<p>The Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy has an <b>Advisory Council for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program (PAIMI)</b>. This Council is funded by the federal funds and is intended to promote the provision of legal and advocacy services for adults and children with mental illness who live in a hospital or other facility providing care and treatment for their illness.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Advisory Council is comprised of 15-20 members representative of Virginia's diverse culture and geography. Membership includes individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services and family members (at least 60 percent), attorneys, mental health professionals, individuals knowledgeable about mental illness, service providers, and at least one member who is the parent of a minor child with mental illness.</p>

**MENTAL HEALTH** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p><b>Best Practices for Housing for Persons with Disabilities</b></p> <p>Item 315-Z of the 2008-2010 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in conjunction with the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, The Arc of Virginia and the Virginia Network of Private Providers, with input from other statewide advocacy organizations, to report on investment models and best-practices for developing affordable and accessible community-based housing for persons with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.</p> <p>The report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ how other states have provided financial incentives for the acquisition, renovation or construction of community housing;</li> <li>▪ specific funding options that will increase the availability of community housing, leverage state dollars, and promote individualized, person-centered housing for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities;</li> <li>▪ recommendations on the number of housing units, the location and type of units , and an allocation methodology to ensure equitable statewide distribution; and</li> <li>▪ discussion of access to transportation and use of support networks that are critical components of the success of housing models for this population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Budget language directs the Department to submit its report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2009.</p>
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p><b>Training and Resources for Effective Adolescent Treatment (Project TREAT) Interagency Adolescent Work Group</b> is a three-year initiative funded through SAMHSA and managed through the Office of Child and Family Services of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. Funds were allocated to 15 states and the District of Columbia to increase capacity to meet the complex and multi-faceted needs of youth with a substance use or co-occurring disorder and to provide services that are accessible, culturally competent, comprehensive, and community based.</p> <p>Project TREAT's goal is to develop and improve coordination of substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services for adolescents across Virginia. The Work Group, determined to be a critical component of a three-year federally-funded project of the DMHMRSAS, will be tasked with linking relevant agencies and organizations to assess the status of service delivery and to develop strategies to enhance these services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Work Group Member</p>	<p>Project TREAT is offering CSBs and facilities serving adolescents with technical assistance and training in evidence-based practice for substance abuse or co-occurring disorders. Project TREAT also offers a series of free trainings sponsored by DMHMRSAS, the Mid-Atlantic ATTC and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).</p> <p>At its March 11 workgroup meeting, one of the agenda items was related to the workgroup and in what form it will exist beyond the TREAT grant funding. Adolescent Interagency Substance Abuse Workgroup future.</p> <p>TREAT met most recently on May 13.</p>

**MENTAL HEALTH** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Association of Community Services Boards	<p><b>Virginia Child and Family Services Council</b>, which is one of six councils of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, addresses issues pertaining to service delivery to children and their families. It also provides a forum for information sharing and networking among the respective Task Force members. The Council collaborates with the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuses Services and other relevant state agencies to assure consistent policies, protocols, procedures and data collection methods in service delivery and reporting.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	The Council meets quarterly on the first Friday of the month.
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p><b>System of Care Advisory Team (SOCAT)</b> — Formerly the Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services, the organization works toward an integrated policy and plan, including the necessary legislation and budget amendments, to provide and improve access by children, including juvenile offenders to mental health, substance abuse, and mental retardation services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Committee Member</p>	<p>At its February 12, 2009 meeting, members heard updates from member agencies and organizations and a presentation from OCS on service development and system transformation. SOCAT organization is currently developing issues to be addressed in its 2010 report to the General Assembly.</p> <p>SOCAT has met on March 12 and May 14.</p>
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p>The <b>Child &amp; Adolescent State and Community Consensus and Planning Team</b> (formerly known as the CCCA and SWVMH Advisory Committee). Item 315-3-C of the 2009 Appropriation Act stated that DMHMRSAS would establish the team for the purpose of developing a plan to examine the current and future role of the Commonwealth and the private sector in providing acute psychiatric services for children and adolescents.</p> <p>Members of the House of Delegates and Senate representing the localities served by the hospital may serve on the team.</p> <p>Under the direction of DMHMRSAS' Commissioner, the team shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the characteristics of the child and adolescent population currently served at the CCCA and SWVMHI;</li> <li>• describe the service needs of the children served at each facility;</li> <li>• determine what services are currently available, or would need to be available in the community, to adequately provide treatment for these children,</li> <li>• consider alternate approaches to delivering services appropriate for some or all of the patient population;</li> <li>• define the state's continuing role and responsibility in providing inpatient services for children and adolescents;</li> <li>• identify funding trends and policies for providing public and private services;</li> <li>• report on the cost of providing public and private psychiatric services; and</li> <li>• detail other strategies to promote high quality, community-based care while maintaining a safety net for children and adolescent in need of acute psychiatric services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The team meets monthly. 2009 meetings have been held on February 3, April 22, and May 14. Each advisory committee meeting provides a public comment period for the purpose of providing to team members a broader perspective on issues to guide and oversee the closure process at CCCA.</p> <p>The Commissioner shall report to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee on the findings of the state and community planning team no later than November 1, 2009.</p>



**MENTAL HEALTH** (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	<p><b>Virginia Integrated Network of Family Organizations (VA INFO)</b> is a coalition led by a Steering Committee of Family Voices of Virginia, Parent to Parent of Virginia, the Arc of Virginia's Family Involvement Project, Virginia Federation of Families (formerly Parents and Children Coping Together [PACCT]) and the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC). Its primary purpose is to ensure that families of children and young adults with special needs obtain the optimal and most current knowledge, supports, and services. The non-profit coalition is funded by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services and the federal Center on Medicare and Medicaid Services Block Grant funds.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Committee Member</p>	<p>The VA INFO coalition meets bi-monthly.</p> <p>The 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference with the on-going theme "Strong Roots for a Healthy Future" will be held on July 11, 2009 in Roanoke, Virginia. The conference is designed to help improve systems of service delivery in Virginia through forming and cultivating partnerships and increasing family involvement. Attendees will include: Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs, Physicians, Nurses, Other Health Professionals, Educators and Service Coordinators.</p> <p>PEATC is celebrating its 30 years of service in 2009.</p>

**HEALTH**

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p><b>Virginia Early Childhood (VECCS) Comprehensive Systems</b> functions as a statewide strategic planning Work Group with the purpose of supporting state maternal and child health agencies and their partner organizations in collaborative efforts to strengthen early childhood system of services for young children and their families.</p> <p>Although the planning Work Group's work concluded with the official planning phase, plan implementation will occur between 2006-2009.</p> <p>This public/private partnership is part of a five year initiative launched by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to support states' efforts to build comprehensive early childhood systems.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>VECCS has successfully completed the process of writing the grant for the two-year implementation phase, which has an annual budget of approximately \$150,000. The project has seen growth in all five component areas since its inception; however, parent education and data and evaluation have become the primary focuses for the final year of implementation. The funding period for this phase ended August 31, 2008.</p>
Health	<p>The <b>Interagency Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee</b> is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Mental Health, Aging, Corrections Education, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, CSBs, private and public agencies with an interest in suicide prevention, as well as the Commission on Youth. Its purpose is to advise the Department of Health on its suicide prevention activities.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Committee Member</p>	<p>Suicide prevention efforts in Virginia are a collaborative effort headed by the Department of Health (VDH) which involves participants from many disciplines. The program was a recommendation of the Commission on Youth Suicide Prevention Plan, <i>House Document 29</i> (2001).</p> <p>In addition to the committee's quarterly meetings, VDH has established a Work Group of local service providers: the Virginia Network for Suicide Prevention Coalitions. This group supports both new and existing suicide prevention efforts at the community level.</p>

## HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>The <b>Healthy Virginian 2010 Initiative</b> was begun in 2004 as a joint venture of the Office of the State Health Commission, the Office of Health Policy Planning, and specific state agencies. Strategies, action steps and desired outcomes were developed, with responsibility assigned to the Department of Health to coordinate the effort and provide expertise to monitor these health status objectives, policies and practices.</p> <p>The Council on Virginia's Future has identified objectives first identified by the Initiative. One of the objectives set by the Council is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than seven deaths per 1,000 live births. Virginia is accomplishing this objective by eliminating disparities among racial and ethnic groups with infant mortality rates above the national average. Public health agencies are continuing to monitor infant mortality trends for all racial and ethnic groups, and are focusing on modifying the behaviors, lifestyles and conditions that affect birth outcomes, such as smoking, substance abuse, poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, medical problems and chronic illness.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Council reports on Virginia's progress in meeting its goals on the Virginia Performs website at <a href="http://vaperforms.virginia.gov">http://vaperforms.virginia.gov</a>. Infant Mortality has been identified as one Health &amp; Family issue requiring attention.</p> <p>The VDH and other state entities addressing health issues administer programs aimed at improving perinatal outcomes for Virginia's families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>Regional Perinatal Councils</b> is a collaborative network of providers of perinatal services with the goal of providing risk appropriate care for pregnant women. The network conducts regional needs assessments including the ongoing efforts of the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) programs, develop strategic plans to address needs annually, and provide health education/training at no or low cost to perinatal professionals.</li> <li>▪ The <b>State Child Fatality Review Team</b> reviews the circumstances of child death and develops recommendations to prevent similar deaths and to improve the report and investigation of these fatalities.</li> <li>▪ All maternal deaths that occur within one year of termination of pregnancy are identified and reviewed by the <b>Maternal Mortality Review Team</b>;</li> <li>▪ The <b>Resource Mothers Program</b> is a community-based effort where community home visitors mentor pregnant teenagers through the prenatal period until the infant's first birthday;</li> <li>▪ The <b>Virginia Health Start Initiative/Loving Steps Program</b> is a community-driven program to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight by involving community leaders, health care providers and parents;</li> <li>▪ The <b>Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Referral Program</b> provides information and counseling for families that have experienced an infant death including SIDS within one year of birth;</li> <li>▪ The <b>Comprehensive Sickle Cell Services Program</b> provides supplemental funding to four centers to diagnose, educate, and case manage children identified through the Newborn Screening Program;</li> <li>▪ The <b>Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia</b>, a program of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;</li> <li>▪ The <b>VCU/MCV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NiCu)</b> has the capacity to care for 40 premature infants and newborns; and</li> <li>▪ <b>UVA's 45-bed Newborn Intensive Care Unit.</b></li> </ul> <p>The public is informed via on-line dissemination of <i>Healthy Virginians 2010</i>, which is updated annually. The web address for program descriptions and announcements is <a href="http://www.healthyvirginians.virginia.gov">www.healthyvirginians.virginia.gov</a>.</p>

## HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>The formerly the <b>Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation</b>, now the <b>Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth</b>, has established Regional Advisory Boards to provide a local connection between VTSF and communities throughout the state. Nine boards oversee the review process to select grantees that will receive funding to implement youth tobacco use prevention programs.</p> <p>Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999, the Foundation leads a statewide effort to reduce and prevent youth tobacco use. The 2009 General Assembly changed both the Foundation's name and expanded its mission to include reducing childhood obesity in the Commonwealth (HB 2456 (O'Bannon)/SB 1112 (Northam). The Foundation promotes healthy living habits to children and teens in Virginia through a variety of methods, including: classroom programs; a multimedia youth marketing campaign; cutting-edge research; and funding enforcement of Virginia's tobacco-access laws.</p> <p>The Foundation directly reaches more than 60,000 children across the Commonwealth every year with community-based youth instructional programs and hundreds of thousands more through an award-winning radio and TV ads and websites sites.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Regional Advisory Board Member</p>	<p>The Foundation and related Advisory Boards have begun work in 2009 to expand outreach into initiatives which reduce childhood obesity.</p> <p>June 30, 2009 is the deadline for Mini-Grants applications from Virginia clubs and organizations which are comprised of high school-aged students. Grants provide \$2,000 discretionary funds for the club/organization to use in ways which empower teens to get involved with promoting a tobacco-free Virginia, e.g. trips, events, fundraising, equipment. In 2008-09, 11 youth organizations received Mini-Grant funding.</p>
Health	<p><b>Bright Futures</b> Virginia was developed in 2000 as a broad Department of Health initiative to address child and adolescent health. Convened as a public-private Advisory Board, Bright Futures was implemented as the state standard for child and adolescent comprehensive health care in 2001. It was subsequently identified by Healthy Virginians 2010 as a strategy for achieving 18 of 54 state objectives.</p> <p>Since that time, Bright Futures has established a website to serve as an online communication vehicle for VDH Bright Futures Advisory Committee and "home-base" for all Bright Futures Virginia activities; provided training to health care providers, nutritionists, dentists, home visitors, and school nurses 2001-2005; and launched a module web course "Promoting Child and Adolescent Health: Bright Futures and EPSDT at <a href="http://www.vcu-cme.org/bf">http://www.vcu-cme.org/bf</a>.</p> <p>Bright Futures' goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• foster partnerships between families, health professionals, and communities;</li> <li>• promote desired social, developmental, and health outcomes of infants, children, and adolescents;</li> <li>• increase family knowledge, skills, and participation in health-promoting and prevention activities; and</li> <li>• enhance health professionals' knowledge, skills, and practice of developmentally appropriate health care in the context of family and community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>In 2008 VDH has launched web-based training for "Bright Futures and EPSDT." This web course provides an overview of Bright Futures Guidelines, explains Virginia's EPSDT program services and how Bright Futures can be implemented as part of the EPSDT program services to promote child and adolescent health. The course is intended for health care professionals working with children, adolescents and their families, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, nutritionists, dentists and mental health providers.</p>

## HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>Section 32.1-46F of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> requires the Board of Health to review vaccines included in the <b>Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules</b> developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. It also addresses the minimum vaccine requirements for school and day care attendance.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Since the Board's August 2006 review, meningococcal vaccine for 11 and 12 year old children has been added to the recommendations. Adoption of the recommendation did not require legislative action. Currently no state has a middle school mandate for this vaccine, but the Commissioner has indicated that adding the vaccine as a school requirement would be, in his opinion, good public health practice.</p> <p>There was no action by the 2009 General Assembly to mandate vaccinations in Virginia middle schools.</p>
Health	<p>The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Commonwealth's Healthy Approach and Mobilization Plan for Inactivity, Obesity and Nutrition (<b>CHAMPION</b>) has completed work towards a comprehensive statewide plan to reduce obesity in Virginia through nutrition and exercise.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Following VDH Family Health Services Review, the working document has been presented to the new State Committee being appointed by the Governor. The Obesity Reduction Plan is available in both summary and as a full report on the VDH's website <a href="http://www.vahealth.org">www.vahealth.org</a>.</p>
Health/Medical Assistance Services	<p>A <b>State Leadership Workshop to improve Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)</b> took place January 7-8, 2008 in Richmond.</p> <p>Through a federal technical assistance grant from the Maternal Child Health Bureau, participants convened for open discussions about EPSDT in Virginia and other states and to identify best practices that will improve the state's services.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Participant</p>	<p>The Department of Medical Assistance Services offers extensive on-line reference materials on its website <a href="http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/ch-home.htm#EPSDT">www.dmas.virginia.gov/ch-home.htm#EPSDT</a>.</p>
Health	<p><b>ESCAPE: Enhancing State Capacity to Address Child and Adolescent Health through Violence Prevention</b> is federally funded through CDC to address violence toward or among youth, including suicide, child maltreatment, dating violence, sexual violence, bullying, and violence in the school and community. ESCAPE's planning and implementation phases focus on shared risk and protective factors.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Committee Member</p>	<p>ESCAPE, now in its 4th year of funding, offers Prevention Training as an introductory level course that will address the concepts of preventing violence prior to the first occurrence. It addresses issues such as the definition of primary prevention, the social ecological model, risk and protective factors, and evaluating resources. While types of violence may be quite different, this course will be looking at the link between possible root causes and prevention initiatives.</p> <p>Sessions were held in Richmond, Fairfax and Virginia Beach in the winter of 2009, on May 13 (Emporia) and May 22 (Virginia Beach). Upcoming is a session on June 9 in Abingdon and at the Virginia School and Campus Safety Training Forum July 29, 2009 in Hampton as this session only or as part of the three-day conference package (July 27-July 28).</p> <p>ESCAPE met most recently on February 17, 2009.</p>

**HEALTH** *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Medical Assistance Services	<p>The <b>Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Advisory Committee</b>, which was established by the 2005 General Assembly, works to improve outreach and enrollment of FAMIS and to provide input on policies, operations, utilization of services and the health outcomes of children in FAMIS and FAMIS Plus (the state Medicaid program).</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	The Advisory Committee met most recently on May 21, 2009.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Legislative Services	<p><b>SJR 318 (2009, Hanger)</b> continues the Joint Subcommittee to study strategies and models for substance abuse prevention and treatment that reduce the costly service demands created by substance abuse. The extension is for one year.</p> <p>The Joint Subcommittee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ identify and characterize the nature of substance abuse in the Commonwealth;</li> <li>▪ identify current state policies and programs targeting substance abuse prevention and treatment;</li> <li>▪ examine the cost of such policies and programs;</li> <li>▪ identify and examine policies and prevention programs from other leading states;</li> <li>▪ benchmark Virginia's programs and policies against those of the leading states; and</li> <li>▪ establish work groups to explore issues, including the abuse of prescription medication, existing state policies and programs, and potential recommendations or solutions to address problems related to substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment services, use of evidence-based practices, and other pertinent topics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Joint Subcommittee was established pursuant to SJR 77 (2008), following completion of a JLARC study pursuant to HJR 683 and SR 395 (2007).</p> <p>In 2009, the Joint Subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2009 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$6,200 without approval.</p> <p>The Joint Subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2009, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Joint Subcommittee's 2009 calendar is being finalized.</p>

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Alcohol Beverage Control/ Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services/Health	<p>On the state level, <b>Community Coalitions of Virginia</b>, which receives Safe and Drug-Free Schools funding, reflects partnerships on the state and local level to prevent substance abuse.</p> <p>On the national level, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) for Building Effective Coalitions was created by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to assist coalitions in developing the infrastructure for community-based, public health approaches to effective and sustainable reductions in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse.</p> <p>Coalition initiatives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create activities free from substance abuse and violence;</li> <li>• prevent alcohol, drug, and tobacco use by youth;</li> <li>• teach our children how to be safe and resist peer pressure;</li> <li>• enhance our sense of family and community; and</li> <li>• promote positive character development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Community Coalitions of Virginia met May 28 in Roanoke to discuss strategies related to the elimination of Safe and Drug Free Schools funding in the President's budget and the establishment of a subcommittee to deal with abuse of substances commonly found in the home (alcohol, inhalants, prescription drugs). The event was sponsored by the Roanoke County Prevention Council in partnership with the Department of Health and the Department of Alcohol, Beverage and Control (ABC).</p> <p>ABC has announced the application process for 2009-10 Community Coalition grants to advance "Real Faces with Real Solutions." Grants up to \$10,000 are being offered to support collaboration between local businesses, community organizations and state agencies, striving to promote zero tolerance for underage alcohol consumption through the use of prevention initiatives. Virginia's local and state agencies, police departments, schools and non-profit community organizations are eligible to apply. Funding is through a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Application deadline for the cycle July 2009-May 2010 is June 12, 2009.</p>

## EDUCATION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>During the 2008 General Assembly Session, members of the House Education Committee reviewed HB 1263 (Hall, 2008), which addressed <b>Truancy and School Dropout Rates</b> in the Commonwealth. The bill's intent was to require local school boards to implement school dropout prevention programs and services which emphasize truancy prevention. The bill also proposed to amend the Code to address compliance with the compulsory school attendance law to strengthen the authority of local school boards. The Committee determined that further study of these issues would be appropriate and forwarded a letter from Delegate Hall requesting the Commission on Youth, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to study the provisions set forth in the bill.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this request, the Commission on Youth will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review state laws and policies relating to the enforcement of compulsory school attendance, truancy and dropout prevention for consistency and clarity;</li> <li>• review current initiatives overseen by the Board of Education and the Department of Education addressing truancy, attendance and dropout prevention;</li> <li>• evaluate local school division policies regarding enforcement of school attendance and assess the need for conformity, including consistency within school divisions, regarding enforcement of statutory attendance policies;</li> <li>• evaluate the new certification data which will be submitted by local school divisions in the Fall of 2008 which demonstrate compliance with compulsory school attendance laws;</li> <li>• review existing local practices that are in place which address truancy and dropout prevention in each school division;</li> <li>• assess factors related to the causes of academic underachievement, chronic truancy and school dropout and determine whether such students should also be considered "children in need of services" for compulsory school attendance purposes;</li> <li>• consider the need and efficacy of defining "truancy" and "chronic truancy" in the <i>Code of Virginia</i>;</li> <li>• attempt to ascertain the impact of suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary actions on school dropout rates and, to the extent possible, ascertain whether disciplined students receive educational, social and community services during their suspension or expulsion from school; and</li> <li>• recommend to the General Assembly such changes to state law and public policies and such other initiatives appropriate and necessary to implement a comprehensive approach to chronic truancy and dropout prevention.</li> </ul> <p>The group is comprised of representatives from impacted groups: Secretary of Education, Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, Virginia Education Association, Association of School Superintendents, Virginia PTA, School Boards Association, Department of Juvenile Justice, Association of Elementary School Principals, Association of Secondary School Principals, Virginia Counselors Association, Association of Chiefs of Police, Educators/Guidance Counselors, Virginia School Safety Center, Court Service Unit Representatives, School Attendance Officers, Alternative Education Representatives, School Resource Officers, Sheriff's Association, and the Office of the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Commission Study</p>	<p>The Commission on Youth approved a study plan for the first year of the two-year study at its April 23, 2008 meeting. The study plan for the second year was received by the Commission on May 29, 2009.</p> <p>Year 1 Study Recommendations were approved by the Commission on Youth on December 3, 2008. <b>HB 1794 (Brink)</b>, which was passed by the 2009 General Assembly and enacted into law, provides that sufficient cause necessary to suspend a student cannot rest solely on instances of truancy.</p> <p>Presentations about the Commission's study initiative have been given to a number of state groups, as well as a panel discussion presentation at the National Education Conference in Washington, D.C., March 13-14, 2009.</p> <p>The Commission convened in the first year an Advisory Group which continues its work in Year 2. Chaired by Delegate Fralin, the Advisory Group began its work on new issues on April 20, 2009. Its next Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for June 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the General Assembly Building.</p> <p>The Commission on Youth is directed to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2010 Session of the General Assembly.</p>

## EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>The Study of <b>Career &amp; Technical Education</b> was a recommendation from the Advisory Groups for Year 3 of the Alternative Education Study and Year 1 of the Truancy and School Dropout Prevention Study. The Commission on Youth approved the recommendation at its December 3, 2008.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this request, the Commission on Youth will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a gap analysis of career and technical educational (CTE) options available in the Commonwealth;</li> <li>• Identify resources and system improvements that may be needed at the state and local level to ensure that CTE meets current and evolving needs of students and communities;</li> <li>• Identify CTE options available in a student's educational career; and</li> <li>• Report findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2010 General Assembly Session.</li> </ul> <p>An Advisory Group representing the following will be convened: Secretary of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Parent Representatives, Virginia Alternative Educators Association, Associated General Contractors of Virginia, Industry representatives, Virginia Manufacturers Association, Business representatives, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Community College system, Virginia Workforce Council, <i>Jobs for Virginia Graduates</i> program CTE Educators/Administrators, Local School Division Representatives.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Commission Study</p>	<p>The study plan was received by the Commission on May 29, 2009.</p> <p>Commission staff has met with representatives of the Virginia Associated Builders and Contractors Incorporated.</p> <p>In addition, the Commission conducted in May a roundtable discussion with school and community leaders in Roanoke. Delegate Fralin led the discussion.</p>
Board of Education	<p><b>HB 19 (Fralin, 2006)</b> requires the Board of Education to collect, analyze and report high school graduation and dropout data using a formula prescribed by the Board of Education.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Board of Education published <i>House Document 81, The High School Graduation Rate Formula</i> (2006) in accordance with its mandate. The Board's Committee on Graduation and Dropouts studied seven widely-discussed graduation rate formulas and evaluated each. At the Committee's recommendation, the Board of Education approved adoption of the National Governors Association On-Time Graduation Rate formula.</p> <p>On-Time High School Graduation rate for Virginia students who entered the ninth grade four years earlier was reported for the first time on October 8, 2008. The records of first-time freshmen in 2004-2005 can be linked to their records four years later to determine their graduation or completion status.</p> <p>The dropout cohort was released in Spring 2009. The Department of Education presented to the Commission on Youth at its May 29, 2009 meeting.</p>



**EDUCATION** (continued)

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>The <b>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division of the Department of Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University</b> sponsors each year a day-long educational program on a special topic relevant to the mental health needs of children.</p> <p>The goal is to increase awareness and understanding of the topic, and to provide 'gold standard' assessment and treatment tools for those working with young people and their families.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Participant</p>	<p>"Systems Approach to Student Supports: Embracing the Whole Child" program was held April 22-23 in Richmond. As part of event, VCU disseminated 150 copies of <i>The Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i> (House Document 21, 2008).</p> <p>This program is aimed at a broad audience of professionals, parents, and laypersons throughout the Commonwealth who are concerned about the emotional and behavioral well being of young people. The program focuses on a single subject resonant with contemporary concerns among stakeholders in children's mental health.</p>
Education	<p><b>HJR 130 (Hall, 2006)</b> encourages the Department of Education (DOE) to monitor and collect data and information on the State's high school dropout and graduation rates. DOE is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine the relevancy of the current process and procedures for defining, counting and reporting school dropout statistics and consider the need for revisions in such process and procedures and compliance by school divisions;</li> <li>▪ Compile data concerning the number of students who dropped out of school before the seventh grade and the reasons why, and the number of students who graduate annually, for school years 2002-2005;</li> <li>▪ Ascertain whether, by whom, and the manner in which students who are at-risk of dropping out are counseled to remain in school;</li> <li>▪ Identify local initiatives and efforts to retain and retrieve students at risk of dropping out, particularly populations with low high school graduation rates; and</li> <li>▪ Apprise policymakers fully regarding the Commonwealth's dropout and high school graduation rates, and of any statutory, fiscal, or regulatory changes that may be necessary to avoid an increase in the school dropout rate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Graduation and Dropout Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Education.</p> <p>HJR 130 requires DOE to apprise policymakers fully regarding Virginia's dropout and high school graduation rates, and of any statutory, fiscal or regulatory changes that may be necessary to avoid an increase in the school dropout rate. DOE's statistics on graduation and dropout rates can be viewed on its website.</p> <p>On October 8, 2008 DOE released its Virginia On-Time Graduation Date data and analysis. This can be accessed in the Virginia School Report Card section of the DOE website at <a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov">www.doe.virginia.gov</a>.</p> <p>DOE hosted a summit on October 28, 2008, with the theme "Learning, Working and Living: Keeping Promises to our Youth." The event was part of a collaboration between DOE and America's Promise Alliance, which is a multi-sector collaborative dedicated to the well-being of children and youth. Senator Blevins, Delegate Brink, and Commission staff participated in a panel discussion of the issues.</p> <p>DOE presented at the Commission on Youth's April 20, 2009 Advisory Group meeting for the Study of Truancy and School Dropout Prevention. The presentation addressed recent dropout prevention activities, including technical assistance, coordination and staff support to the regional and local dropout prevention summits which have been scheduled across the Commonwealth. By December, every region will have hosted its summit. A resource being used by local school divisions and the state was a book published by America's Promise called <i>Graduation Nation</i>.</p> <p>On July 14-16, 2009, DOE is sponsoring a statewide conference on efforts to keep students in school until graduation. With the theme "From Vision to Practice: Seven Million Minutes from Pre-Kindergarten to Graduation," the event features local, state, and national experts.</p>

**EDUCATION** (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>Virginia, through Virginia Commonwealth University, has joined 24 states and the District of Columbia to conduct <b>Family Impact Seminars</b>. These are a non-partisan, research-based seminar series designed to highlight the implications that public issues, policies or programs have for families. Implemented initially in Wisconsin in 1993, state-level seminars have proven to be an effective venue to help academically generated research findings become more accessible to and more meaningful for legislators, legislative staff, Governor's office staff, legislative service agency staff and agency representatives.</p> <p>Based on the Family Impact Seminar model, VCU faculty, community leaders, and a bi-partisan team of members of the General Assembly has developed a partnership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ identify the most compelling and timely family related state-level problems; and</li> <li>▪ sponsor topic-specific annual seminars that address these problems with solution-oriented research.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Advisory Group Member</p>	<p>Planning is underway for a 2009 Seminar in Richmond. The topic has not been announced.</p> <p>Leadership from Family Impact Seminars was invited to present to the Commission on Youth at its May 29, 2009 meeting.</p> <p>The 2008 Family Impact Seminar, co-sponsored by VCU, the Virginia Commission on Youth and the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), focused on <b>Truancy and School Dropout Prevention</b>. The seminar was held on October 22 in House Room 3 in the State Capitol. The goal of this seminar was to bring state legislators the expertise of nationally recognized professionals who have special knowledge through research or practice of an issue that legislative planners have decided is a topic of particular, current interest to them. Thirteen legislators, along with 100 professionals from throughout Virginia, attended the event.</p>
Education	<p>The <b>Virginia Board of Education</b> is the nine-member governing and policy-making body for the Virginia system of public elementary and secondary education. Its work touches all facets of education from accountability and evaluation to curriculum and teacher education.</p> <p>The Board's members are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Members are appointed to serve a term of four years. No member shall be appointed to more than two consecutive four-year terms.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Board of Education meets monthly. The Board met most recently on May 28, 2009. Upcoming meetings are June 25, July 23, September 17, October 22, and November 17. In 2009, the Board posts an on-site video of highlights of each meeting. These are on the Department's website at <a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov">www.doe.virginia.gov</a>.</p> <p>The Board of Education is reviewing the Standards of Quality and soliciting public comment from May 1 through July 31. Findings from this review will be submitted to the Governor and the chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by November 1, 2009.</p> <p>On May 1, 2007, the Board hosted a "Closing the Achievement Gap: A Focus on Adolescent Literacy" literacy policy summit. Participants were challenged by President Mark E. Emblidge to take insights gained at the summit back to their school divisions and institutions and assist the board in beginning a state-wide conversation about the development of policies and practices to strengthen adolescent literacy. The summit addressed the philosophy that all teachers, regardless of content area, have to focus on building literacy skills – including the vocabulary and comprehension skills required to understand the content of the course.</p>

**EDUCATION** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office of the Secretary of Education	<p><b>Virginia's P-16 Education Council</b> was created by <i>Executive Order</i> 100 (2005) and extended most recently by Executive Order 70 (2008) to integrate reform efforts in education in the Commonwealth. The Council advises the Governor, the Secretary, and state education agencies, and other key education policymakers. The Council offers perspectives on education and makes recommendations for a seamless transition for students through the education system. A primary responsibility is to react to initiatives of Virginia's grant from the National Governors Association to develop effective models to "redesign" high schools and specifically to develop a comprehensive transition of ninth graders from middle school.</p> <p><b>SB 1016 (Edwards, 2009)</b> made the Council a permanent advisory council within the executive branch, to be staffed by the Office of the Secretary of Education.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Council, which is chaired by the Secretary of Education, generally meets bi-monthly. Meeting topics have included early childhood development and pre-kindergarten education, the Department's workforce development conference and projects, career and technical education, the federal Partnership for the 21st Century Skills, the National Governors Associations Honor States grant, alignment of high school graduation and college entrance requirements, and the Commonwealth Scholars Program.</p>
Office of the Secretary of Education	<p>A <b>School Readiness Task Force</b> has been convened by the Governor to focus on developing an effective system for assessing and evaluating the school readiness of Virginia's children.</p> <p>Task Force members include the Superintendent of Public Instruction, local city councils, school divisions and early childhood development offices, the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) office and Virginia's universities and community colleges, the Early Childhood Foundation and the Council on Virginia's Future.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Task Force has proposed four recommendations to promote statewide data collection efforts to better inform educational policies and classroom practices.</p> <p>The first recommendation - to develop a standard definition of school readiness - has been achieved. At its April 24, 2008 meeting, the Board of Education officially adopted the definition of "school readiness" which guide planning and evaluation. The definition includes four components: ready children; ready families; ready schools; and ready communities.</p> <p>The Task Force has developed a list of pilot projects for communities, foundations and corporate donors. The goal is to provide communities with grant templates they can use for local projects and help each community design its project so it can also be utilized across the state. Project development includes an evaluation and assessment tool.</p> <p>In December 2008, the Task Force released its 2008 Virginia School Readiness Report. The three sections describe efforts related to statewide infrastructure, research, and resources.</p> <p>Further information on the Task Force is available at <a href="http://www.education.virginia.gov/Initiatives/EarlyChildhood/GovWorkingGroup.cfm">www.education.virginia.gov/Initiatives/EarlyChildhood/GovWorkingGroup.cfm</a>.</p>

**EDUCATION** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Education	<p><b>Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia</b>, effective March 27, 2002, are required to be revised to comply with changes outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA '04), and its federal implementing regulations.</p> <p>Topic areas changed in the proposed regulations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parental consent for termination of services;</li> <li>▪ Parental consent for services for transfer students;</li> <li>▪ Child study committees;</li> <li>▪ Functional behavioral assessment definition (FBA);</li> <li>▪ FBA discipline procedures;</li> <li>▪ Transition;</li> <li>▪ Timeline for evaluations;</li> <li>▪ Developmental delay definition;</li> <li>▪ Autism definition;</li> <li>▪ Autism eligibility criteria;</li> <li>▪ Eligibility term – emotional disturbance;</li> <li>▪ Eligibility term – mental retardation;</li> <li>▪ Discipline procedures – general education curriculum;</li> <li>▪ Day Process Hearing System;</li> <li>▪ Implementation plans;</li> <li>▪ LEA participation on local advisory committees;</li> <li>▪ Gender and ethnic representation;</li> <li>▪ Manifestation determination review;</li> <li>▪ Response to intervention;</li> <li>▪ Short-term objectives; and</li> <li>▪ IEP progress reports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The process began October 25, 2006, under the direction of the Board of Education.</p> <p>By Spring 2008, the proposed regulations had received Executive Branch approval from the Governor, Secretary of Education, Attorney General , and the Department of Planning and Budget. In a March 21, 2008 memorandum to members of State Board of Education, Governor Kaine indicated that, while he had approved the advancement of the regulation to the next stage, he reserved “the right to take action under the Administrative Process Act during the final adoption period” and expressed “some concerns that I have—concerns that parents across the Commonwealth have shared.” In addition, Speaker of the House William J. Howell and House Democratic Caucus Chairman Brian J. Moran submitted concerns.</p> <p>The proposed revisions were published in The Virginia Register of Regulations on April 28, 2008. Publication initiated the 60-day public comment period, which ended June 30, 2008.</p> <p>A State Special Education Advisory Committee, which advises the Board of Education and the Department of Education on unmet educational needs of children with disabilities, met July 16-18 in Richmond.</p> <p>The General Assembly's Joint Commission on Administrative Rules met on September 11 to discuss the draft regulations. The Board voted on September 25, 2008 to adopt revisions to the regulations and authorized DOE staff to proceed with any remaining steps required by the APA.</p> <p>On March 19, 2009 the Governor approved the Final Regulations without any changes. They were published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on April 13, 2009. Due to a request that was received from more than 25 citizens asserting that changes with “substantial impact” were made between the proposed and final regulations, and requesting an additional public comment period, an additional 30-day Public Comment period was scheduled for April 13 to May 13, 2009.</p> <p>The Virginia Board of Education is scheduled to review the draft regulations during its meeting on May 28th. If approved by the Board of Education, and if everything goes well, the regulations could be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations as early as June 22, 2009. The regulations would become effective 15 days after publication. Given the publication dates of the Register, we anticipate that the regulations will be effective in July 2009.</p>

**EDUCATION** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office of the Governor	<p>For the first time, all state-funded early childhood home visiting programs have come together at the state level to discuss home visiting services in the Commonwealth. The <b>Home Visiting Consortium</b> has pledged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examine the role of home visiting in improving the health and well-being of Virginia's young children;</li> <li>• review the current publicly funded Virginia home visiting services for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5 years;</li> <li>• increase local and state collaborative efforts in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's home visiting services; and</li> <li>• recommend changes in home visiting system which will improve birth outcomes and enhance early childhood development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>As part of the Governor's Home Visiting Consortium, <b>Project LINK</b>, the Consortium looks at ways to improve coordination, level of services and coordination for home visiting services for children 0-5. The training program evolved from the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives, which is charged with approving the Consortium's plans.</p> <p>The Consortium is developing a mental health training model for home visitors. The two-day training will include one day on children.</p>
Education	<p><b>Project HOPE</b> is Virginia's program for the education of Homeless Children and Youth. The College of William and Mary administers the program for the Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act (P.O. 107-110).</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Project HOPE's annual seminar "Celebrating Successes/Conquering Challenges" was held April 27-28, 2009 in Williamsburg. Sessions included Promoting the Social Emotional Competence of Young Children, Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit Training, Housing Rights and Supports for Families in Crisis, School Community Collaborations, Using Data to Strengthen Your Homeless Education Program, and Child Welfare Issues as Related to Homelessness.</p> <p>The program is monitoring the impact of mortgage foreclosure, increases in food prices and other economic issues on homeless children and youth.</p>
Education	<p><b>High Schools That Work (HSTW)</b> was originally created in 1987 by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in partnership with a consortium of eleven states, of which Virginia was one. High Schools That Work has been recognized as the nation's first large-scale initiative to emphasize a program of study that includes both academic courses and modern career and technical studies to prepare students for a broad career field and further education.</p> <p>The HSTW initiative is a comprehensive approach to school improvement that complements and supports the state's educational goals. As a research and assessment-based reform initiative, HSTW is guided by a framework of goals, key practices, and key conditions to improve school practices, instruction, and student achievement. The HSTW vision requires its stakeholders (administrators, faculty and staff, parents, leaders of community/civic organizations, representatives of business/industry, and postsecondary education) to rethink school routines.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Virginia has 30 of the more than 1,100 High Schools That Work sites nationally, and is one of 26 states participating in the Southern Regional Education Board's National HSTW Network.</p>

## EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>The <b>Commission on Civics Education</b> was created in 2005 as an advisory committee in the executive branch. It is comprised of 23 members including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials and citizens. Legislation was introduced during the 2008 General Assembly Session to extend the sunset provision of the Commission to July 1, 2010 – HB 777 (Tata) and SB 306 (Reynolds).</p> <p>The three primary purposes of the advisory commission are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further the education of students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy;</li> <li>▪ Promote the study of State and local government among the citizens; and</li> <li>▪ Enhance communication and collaboration among organizations that conduct civic education programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>Commission meetings are held at the call of the chair or whenever the majority of the members request. The 2009 meeting calendar is pending.</p> <p><i>Report Document 443</i> (2008) details the Commission's most recent year's work.</p> <p>The chair of the Commission on Civics Education is directed to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.</p>
Legislative Services	<p><b>HJR 90 (Cosgrove, 2008)</b> continued a 14-member joint subcommittee studying science, math and technology education at the elementary, secondary and undergraduate levels to insure that Virginia continues to be a leader in the science and technology sectors.</p> <p>Its third year ended, the study had as its goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase emphasis and access to science, math, and technology education by students throughout Virginia; and</li> <li>▪ Increase the number of graduates of science and engineering programs who remain in Virginia.</li> </ul> <p>In concluding its work, the Joint Subcommittee approved recommendations to further long-term goals.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The joint subcommittee concluded its first year of study on December 4th, 2006. Although the joint subcommittee made no formal recommendations at the conclusion of the 2006 Interim, it indicated in its 2006 study Executive Summary (<i>House Document 14, Science, Math, and Technology Education at the Elementary, Secondary and Undergraduate Levels</i>) that it has the background necessary to pursue more definitive recommendations during the 2007 Interim. These followed in the next year's Executive Summary (<i>House Document 9, Science, Math, and Technology Education at the Elementary, Secondary and Undergraduate Levels</i>). The 2008 Executive Summary was published as House Document 4.</p> <p>Recommendations approved by the Joint Committee included a resolution recognizing the seven new Career and Technical Education Academies and encouraging local school divisions to consider establishing an academy based on the Board of Education criteria for establishing a Governor's Career and Technical Education Academy,.</p> <p>In support of the Joint Subcommittee's findings that Math Specialists contribute to classroom success, the 2009 General Assembly passed HJR 652 (Cosgrove) which directs that school divisions be requests to consider using existing intervention, remediation, and at-risk funding to hire K-8 Math Specialists as an effective means to improve the performance of low-achieving students. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall submit an executive summary and report on the progress of school divisions in meeting the request of this resolution no later than the first day of the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.</p>

**EDUCATION** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Legislative Services	<p>The <b>Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education</b> is mandated by Code Section 30-198 to recommend an integrated and coordinated multi-agency approach for delivery of quality career and technical education programs and services in public schools.</p> <p>The legislative Council has as its powers and duties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitate the coordination of public school career and technical services, workforce training programs, and efforts among agencies and institutions of the Commonwealth;</li> <li>• receive information and advice from state agencies, authorities and other organizations addressing career and technical education and workforce development as necessary;</li> <li>• recommend policies, legislation, and funding that are needed to support career and technical education in the Commonwealth; and</li> <li>• promote public-private partnerships and collaboration for career and technical education programs throughout the Commonwealth.</li> </ul> <p>The Council, which is scheduled to expire July 1, 2012, is an 18-member group is comprised of three members of the Senate and five from the House of Delegates, as well as four gubernatorial appointees and ex-officio members from the Secretariats.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Delegate Peace serves on the Council.</p>	The Council is directed by Code to submit its recommendations annually to the Governor and the General Assembly. The 2008 report is as yet unpublished.
Education	<p>The <b>Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education (CTE)</b> represents a Board of Education standing committee of educators and representatives of the private sector. In partnership with the Virginia Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education Services, the 14-member Committee recognizes annually the outstanding work of one business and industry partnership and one award for an advisory council/committee for each of the eight Superintendent's Regions.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>In January, Governor Kaine announced grants to establish the state's first Governor's Career and Technical Academies. These will provide instruction in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and are being developed as partnerships among school divisions, employers, business organizations and colleges and universities. Each partnership received a \$20,000 planning grant, followed by a \$100,000 implementation award upon program approval by the Board of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The six programs funded are in Halifax County, Newport News, Arlington County, Suffolk, Russell County, and Stafford County. The Arlington Career Center was featured in a Washington Post article on February 12, 2009.</p> <p>The Advisory Group's next meeting is June 9, 2009.</p>

## EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p><b>Know How Virginia</b> is an initiative of the Virginia Career Education Foundation in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Community College System, State Council of Higher Education, and the Virginia Employment Commission. It presents a long-term public awareness campaign designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform students and their parents, teachers, and counselors of rewarding career opportunities, particularly in high-demand and emerging fields;</li> <li>▪ Promote quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) in middle and high schools to support career exploration and preparation; and</li> <li>▪ Ensure a larger pool of qualified, motivated applicants for Virginia businesses and industries.</li> </ul> <p>The campaign has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An Umbrella Campaign that provides basic information on careers, career exploration, and the benefits of Career and Technical Education (CTE);</li> <li>▪ Career-specific Campaigns underwritten by private-sector partners seeking to cultivate greater pools of qualified candidates for specific types of jobs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The partnership's website—<a href="http://www.knowhowvirginia.org">www.knowhowvirginia.org</a>—provides an overview of the program's activities. In addition, the website gives information about one-time events and ongoing programs available in each region or throughout the state. Information is given on career fairs, student organization events, and numerous other career building opportunities.</p> <p>The initiative is a public-private partnership, with contributions from Virginia business.</p> <p>SB 326 (Wagner, 2008) required the Board of Education to develop a plan for increasing the number of students receiving industry certification and state licensure as part of their career and technical education.</p>
Office of the Governor	<p>The <b>Virginia Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Award</b> is a new initiative of the Virginia Career Education Foundation, established through Virginia's National Governors' Association (NGA) grant to recognize individual career and technical education (CTE) programs that meet the standards for exemplary programs in Virginia.</p> <p>The selection process entails reviews of the documentation submitted for each nominee. The three programs with the highest ratings then receive site visits, which include classroom observations and interviews with students, teachers, administrators, graduates and employers.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>2009 winners announced on May 19 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automotive Technology Program, teachers Mark Maund and Wayne Champigny, Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center;</li> <li>• Cosmetology Program, teacher Soussan Bayati, Edison High School Academy, Fairfax County; and</li> <li>• Early Childhood Education Program, teachers Ruth Bilideau and Carol Show, Arlington Career Center.</li> </ul> <p>Twelve programs were nominated in 2009. Nominations for the 2010 awards are due June 1, 2009. Instructions and forms are available at <a href="http://www.vcef.net">www.vcef.net</a> or by contacting the Virginia Career Education Foundation at <a href="mailto:vcef@cox.net">vcef@cox.net</a>.</p> <p>Winners will receive banners to display in the school and a \$5,000 cash award for continued program improvement. Awards will be presented during the CTE Summer Professional Institute on August 4, 2009 in Richmond.</p>



**EDUCATION** *(continued)*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The <b>Virginia Center for School Safety</b> (VCSS) of the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is a resource and training center for information and research about national and statewide school safety efforts and reflects Virginia's commitment to providing safe and productive learning environments.</p> <p>Through the VCSS, schools and communities have access to proactive trainings, topical resources, public-private partnerships, data collection and evaluation.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The VCSS 2009 School and Campus Safety Training Forum, held July 27-28 in Hampton. The Forum will provide all attendees with two days of plenary and breakout sessions covering a comprehensive range of campus safety and prevention-related topics on those days.</p> <p>In addition to the Main Conference package, this year's forum will also offer specialized training opportunities as follows:</p> <p><u>Three-day conference package</u> (July 27–July 29) -- Two-day Main Conference + <u>one</u> of the following Wednesday sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DARE Update</li> <li>• Teen Dating Violence Showcase</li> <li>• Primary Violence Prevention</li> <li>• Alcohol Enforcement Specialist Training</li> <li>• School Resource Officer Basic Training</li> </ul> <p><u>Four-day conference package</u> (July 27–July 30) -- Two-day Main Conference plus one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Security Officer Certification Training</li> <li>• College Campus Security Officer Certification Training</li> </ul> <p>DCJS anticipates more than 600 school and campus safety practitioners to be in attendance at this annual event. Partnering with DCJS are Virginia Department of ABC, DOE, Virginia Department of State Police, Office of the Attorney General, VDOH, and the Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.</p> <p>Among the agenda topics is "Success in Truancy Prevention: Strategies that Work."</p>
Education	<p>The 12-member <b>Student Advisory Committee</b> to the Board of Education represents and serves the students of Virginia by acting as a liaison between students and the board, understanding and voicing the concerns and issues facing students, giving a fresh perspective to the board members, and providing a collective voice to provide feasible solutions.</p> <p><b>Commission's involvement:</b> Tracking</p>	<p>The Committee meets three times a year with two meetings coinciding with regularly scheduled board meetings. The Committee includes high school students from each of the Department of Education's eight administrative regions and four middle school students selected at-large.</p>

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*Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families*

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Commission staff welcomes comments at any time and invites submission of material for its  
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## **Virginia Commission on Youth**

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